

ELTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REVIEW 2025-2026

(1.) Parish Council finance and administration

- Most of the income for the parish council comes from the “Precept” (the parish council portion of the council tax paid by residents to Huntingdonshire District Council). Elton Parish Council reduced the parish council precept by 5.6% down to £17,000 for the financial year from April 2025 through to March 2026. For the new financial year of April 2026 through to March 2027, the precept will remain at £17,000 with no increase. The financial forecast in revised budget includes a tentative further reduction in precept to £16,000 for the 2027–2028 financial year.
- The parish council presently has a full complement of nine unpaid parish councillors supported by Kerry Rew as Parish Clerk. Michelle Lay was co-opted onto the parish council in September 2025. Councillor Kathryn Taylor will be stepping down on 11 May 2026 so there will be a vacancy for another parish councillor; if anyone is interested in becoming a parish councillor, contact either the Parish Clerk, Kerry Rew, or the Chair, Cllr. Ian Ross, for further information.

(2.) Elton Parish Council activity April 2025 – March 2026

As usual, it was quite a busy year for the parish council dealing with issues in the village and parish of Elton and matters in the surrounding area that may impact Elton.

(3.) Elton Flood Action Group

Refer to the Elton Flood Action Group report from Cllr. Jan Speechley.

(4.) Local Nature Recovery

Refer to the Local Nature Recovery report from Cllr. Jan Speechley.

(5.) Other actions

There were many small, local projects throughout the last year, mainly requested by residents. To mention just a few:

- Grass cutting continued throughout the year. A different grass cutting contractor has been selected as of March 2026 with a one-year contract.
- The overgrown bank by Vinco Terrace was cleared as visibility for cars coming out of Rectory Farm Mews was obstructed.
- The parish council applied for delivery of 5-tonne of free compost (made from ‘Green Bin’ garden waste) from Huntingdonshire District Council which was all collected by residents in less than two days. A further application may be made soon for another delivery of compost.
- At the request of the parish council, Ingrebourne Valley, the company operating Elton Quarry, kindly donated gravel and repaired potholes on the public bridleway by Elton sewage works and recently donated more gravel in March 2026 for further repairs and maintenance of the bridleway. Ingrebourne Valley also donated ten bird boxes.
- Three new teak benches were purchased and installed as replacements for broken, unsafe benches on Chapel Lane, Stocks Green and Middle Street.
- Bookshelves were installed in the former telephone kiosk on Middle Street and a ‘book-swap’ set up.
- The parish council continued to pay for spare parts for the seven defibrillators in Elton (replacement pads).

- As requested by some residents of Hayes Walk, a dog waste bin was purchased and installed near the public footpath on Hayes Walk, the parish council pays Huntingdonshire District Council to empty the bin.
- Fly-tipping was reported by the parish council to Huntingdonshire District Council on numerous occasions; as always, Huntingdonshire District Council promptly investigated and cleared the dumped items.

(6.) Planning proposals

A lot of time at the parish council is spent on planning matters, not only within Elton but also as a consultee for planning proposals in the surrounding area that would affect Elton.

- Over the last year, the parish council recommended approval of nine planning applications from residents of Elton and recommended refusal of one application. (For planning applications in Elton, the parish council only makes recommendations to Huntingdonshire District Council, it is Huntingdonshire District Council as the local planning authority that makes the decision.)
- Wessex Solar Energy submitted a revised planning application to Huntingdonshire District Council for Haddon Solar Farm which was then sent to the Planning Inspector. Elton Parish Council objected yet again, and on the 12 December 2025, the Planning Inspector yet again rejected Haddon Solar Farm.

- Preparation continues of the revised Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2044.

During May 2025, there was a public consultation regarding Additional Sites, the parish council objected to a proposed site for 1,700 houses to be built west of the A1 stretching from the Oundle Road all the way down to the A605 road.

In October-November 2025, there was a public consultation of the full Draft Local Plan for Huntingdonshire to 2044. The draft local plan did not include any massive housing developments at Sibson or in Chesterton. However, the draft local plan did include a large warehouse development by Newlands next to Peterborough Services with all vehicles coming onto the A605 road – Elton Parish Council and many residents and other parish councils objected to the proposed development.

The next version of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan should be issued about mid-2026.

- Elton Parish Council continued to object against proposals for massive warehouses developments at the west end of the A605 road near Titchmarsh and Thrapston which would drastically increase the HGV traffic on the A605 road passing the Elton junction and using Elton as a 'rat-run'. Warehouses proposed by Newlands were approved by the Planning Inspector. A Planning Application by IM Properties was approved by North Northamptonshire Council but the local community group, STAUNCH, has obtained a Judicial Review of this planning decision in June 2026 at the High Court in London.
- The parish council broadly supported the proposals in the first issue of the Peterborough Draft Local Plan with all housing requirements for Peterborough to be within the boundary of Peterborough without the need for commuter suburbs such as Sibson Garden Community in northern Huntingdonshire. However, the latest version proposed an alternative site for 3,000 houses next to Wittering (instead of north of the A47 near Ailsworth and Castor). Elton Parish Council cooperated with the parish councils of Wittering, Thornhaugh, and Wansford in objecting to this massive development which could lead to more 'rat-run' traffic through Wansford, Chesterton and Elton.

(7.) Road safety

As in the past, another major topic at the parish council is road safety, including traffic calming measures, road repairs and the junction with the A605 road.

- Following requests from residents, Cambridgeshire County Council will soon install double yellow lines to prohibit parking on the hazardous, steep narrow bend of upper Middle Street between School Lane and Overend.
- Also following requests from residents, Elton Parish Council applied for warning signage and road surface markings on the Oundle Road approaches to the houses by Sheepwalk Farm, these road safety measures will soon be installed by Cambridgeshire County Council.
- With input from residents of Wansford Road and the parish council, Cambridgeshire County Council installed traffic calming on the Wansford Road during November 2025 with a “Give Way” traffic island in the inbound lane, an extension of the 30-mph zone northwards and a 40-mph buffer zone. There are some challenges with drivers entering the village suddenly braking or even driving up onto the grass verge to bypass the traffic island. But the traffic calming has drastically reduced speeding on the Wansford Road.
- A third radar speed sign was purchased by the parish council to deter traffic speeding and collect useful data. Presently, the three speed signs are located on Overend, Highgate Green, and Duck Street.
- The parish council continues to report highway faults such as potholes to Cambridgeshire County Council and chases the county council to repair potholes.
- The A605 road and the junction with Elton continues to be a major concern of residents. The parish council part-commissioned a technical study by a reputable traffic consultancy showing the current status of the A605 road and the combined impact on the A605 of multiple warehouse developments between Thrapston and Peterborough. Elton Parish Council attended a joint-parishes meeting about the A605 road organised by Oundle Town Council. Our Cambridgeshire County Councillor Simon Bywater instigated a multi-authority meeting about the A605 road with Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Peterborough, North Northamptonshire and Elton. Our MP, Sam Carling, visited Elton to listen to concerns about the A605 road.

Cllr. Ian Ross, Chair, Elton Parish Council