

# EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES WITHIN THE REMIT OF THE FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE

2024-25

(Including reports from representatives for 2023-24)

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### **PRIORITY CATEGORY OF OFFICER SUPPORT**

1. Nominated officers to provide Members with regular support on a proactive basis, and attend meetings where appropriate (including those outside bodies where officers attend at present).
2. Nominated officers to provide ad hoc support on specific agenda issues and act as a contact for feedback and implementation of action points. The onus will be on the Member to contact the nominated officer to facilitate these arrangements.
3. Members should liaise directly with Democratic Services.

## **A10 ELY TO A14 IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME**

### **AIMS AND ACTIVITIES**

- Member Working Group established by resolution of Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and Transport Committee (12/7/22);
- Members will receive information regarding the scheme as it develops;
- Members can discuss and express their views but it is not a decision-making body.

<b>Representation:</b>	Two Members
<b>Status of Member:</b>	Representatives of ECDC
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	To be decided at the first meeting
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	No
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	No
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):</b>	1
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Director Community, Sally Bonnett

<b>Representatives for 2024/25:</b>	Cllr Ian Bovingdon Cllr Bill Hunt
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### **REPORT FROM 2023/24 REPRESENTATIVE**

Cllr Bill Hunt (attended all 3 meetings)

The Member Working Group was established by resolution of Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and Transport Committee (12/7/22). The Group continues to carry out very well worthwhile important work. Members will receive information regarding the scheme as it develops. Members can discuss and express their views, but it is not a decision-making body.

Cllr Ian Bovingdon.

*(not received)*

# **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST**

## **AIMS AND ACTIVITIES**

East Cambs Community Land Trust is incorporated to enable affordable homes to be owned and managed by an independent locally-run body that enables people to live and work locally. It is an “umbrella” Community Land Trust (CLT) and therefore covers a wider area or region than a local CLT and takes a complementary, supportive, role to any local CLTs.

Its purpose is to carry on, for the benefit of people in need (whether by virtue of poverty, financial hardship, age, physical or mental disability or ill health), in East Cambridgeshire:

- The business of providing and managing housing (including social housing) and facilitating the provision and management of such housing;
- The provision of, and facilitating the provision of, information, advice, assistance, training, support, facilities, amenities and services incidental to the provision and promotion of housing;
- The promotion of regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation in such ways as may be thought fit by the Trustees;
- Any other charitable object that can be carried out from time to time by a community land trust and which the Trustees consider would further the social, economic and environmental interest of the community in the area of benefit.

**Representation:** Up to three Members (total of one vote irrespective of number of Members.)

**Status of Member:** Custodian Nominee Trustee

**No. meetings per year:** 3-4

**Expenses paid by organisation:** No

**Insurance provision:** Yes

**Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):** 3

**Contact Officer:** Director Community, Sally Bonnett

**Representative for 2024/25:** Cllr Anna Bailey

## **REPORT FROM 2023/24 REPRESENTATIVE**

Cllr Anna Bailey (attended all 4 meetings)

ECCLT is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society, run by volunteers. The Trust was established in November 2017 as an umbrella Community Land Trust (CLT) for the whole of East Cambridgeshire. ECCLT supports the work of the Council in promoting Community Land Trust development in the district and in securing affordable homes that help to enable people with ties to the area to live and work locally.

ECCLT owns and manages two affordable homes within Montgomery House that were part of the East Cambs Trading Company's Kings Row development in Barton Road, Ely which are occupied by local people. ECCLT also manages the Montgomery House building.

ECCLT has been working with East Cambs Trading Company to take on the ownership and management of 15 shared ownership affordable homes on the ex MOD housing site in Ely; to date 13 homes have been purchased by ECCLT, with the final 2 to complete very soon. Tenants living in the 13 properties were selected using the Trust's local allocations policy, meaning those eligible people with the strongest ties to the community are benefiting.

The Trustees have met formally 4 times since May 2023.

Continued representation on this outside body is very important – the District Council has Custodian Member status and has responsibilities to the Trust in that regard. Membership also helps to pursue the stated Corporate Plan housing objectives of the Council.

This organisation facilitates the delivery of affordable homes and supports the outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan.

# **EAST OF ENGLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

## **AIMS AND ACTIVITIES**

- To represent the interests of local authorities in the region;
- To formulate sound policies for the development of local government in the region;
- To promote the policies of the East of England LGA and provide information/advice on local government issues to the public and partner organisations;
- To enable Councillors to exercise their democratic accountability and leadership effectively;
- To support innovation and excellence that enables local authorities and their partnerships to meet the needs of their communities and meet future challenges.

<b>Representation:</b>	Leader of Council
<b>Status of Member:</b>	Representative of ECDC
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	1
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	No
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	Yes
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):</b>	1
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Chief Executive, John Hill

**Representative for 2024/25:** Cllr Anna Bailey

## **REPORT FROM 2023/24 REPRESENTATIVE**

Cllr Anna Bailey (attended 2 of 2 meetings)

This is a member led organisation whose core services are funded by member subscriptions from the East of England.

Core Services are a universal offer available to all subscribing members and provided free at the point of access. They include programmes of activity in priority areas, support for regional member and officer networks, a range of free events and briefings, specific helpdesk and advice services, as well as activity undertaken jointly with Trade Unions in its role as the Regional Employers Organisation.

The organisation provides support and advice to the Council, particularly adding value when in house services are not available.

Continued representation on this Outside Body is worthwhile; the organisation is useful to the Council in providing briefings, information, support and expertise and in representing local Government with central Government.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

### **AIMS AND ACTIVITIES**

To support, promote and improve local government in England and Wales.

To support Councillors in their role as democratically elected local representatives.

<b>Representation:</b>	One Member
<b>Status of Member:</b>	Representative of ECDC (voting Member)
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	1
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	Yes (attendance only, not travel)
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	No
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):</b>	1
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Chief Executive, John Hill

**Representative for 2024/25:** Cllr Julia Huffer

### **REPORTS FROM 2023/24 REPRESENTATIVE**

Cllr Julia Huffer (attended 0 of 1 meetings)

I believe this is a worthwhile organisation and we should continue to attend. I have no diary clash this year.

## **LGA – DISTRICT COUNCILS NETWORK**

### **AIMS AND ACTIVITIES**

- To lobby and negotiate directly with senior members of national political parties on district-specific needs and issues – the “localism” agenda;
- To inform and influence national agencies, government departments and other local authority agencies on things that matter, such as resources and allocation;
- To get the Network’s unique message across to the audiences that matter – people, Government, partners, regulators;
- Help each other to remain effective and share learning/good practice.

<b>Representation:</b>	Leader of Council
<b>Status of Member:</b>	ECDC representative
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	4
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	No
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	No
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):</b>	1
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Chief Executive, John Hill

**Representative for 2024/25:** Cllr Anna Bailey

### **REPORT FROM 2023/24 REPRESENTATIVE**

Cllr Anna Bailey (attended 2 of 4 meetings).

The District Councils’ Network (DCN) is a cross-party member led network of 180 district councils. It is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association (LGA), and provides a single voice for all district councils within the Local Government Association.

Being a member of the network supports the work of the organisation, provides valuable information and data to the Council and facilitates networking, helping the Council to lobby Government and fulfil its statutory and non-statutory activities.

Over the years during Covid the DCN has been particularly pro-active. Topics vary and cover most aspects of the functions of District Councils.

This organisation has been an incredibly effective conduit for District Councils and central Government, particularly in relation to dealings with the DLUCH; it has meant that District Councils have had a strong and united voice.



## **RURAL SERVICES NETWORK.**

### **AIMS AND ACTIVITIES**

- A membership organisation championing rural services. It campaigns for fair funding for rural areas and aims to share best practice across the membership.

<b>Representation:</b>	Two Members
<b>Status of Member:</b>	
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	12
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	No
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	No
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):</b>	3
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Director Community, Sally Bonnett

**Representatives for 2024/25:** Keith Horgan  
James Lay

### **REPORTS FROM 2023/24 REPRESENTATIVES**

Cllr Keith Horgan (attended 10 of 10 meetings)

The key link to our objectives is through the Rural Services Networks work on sustainable communities. Yes [continued representation on this outside body is worthwhile] because the topics discussed directly impact our residents.

The Rural Services Network encompasses a wide range of partners and organisations who all work together to help provide a voice for rural communities. Over 20,000 members belong to the network. ECDC is categorised as a member in the Sparse category which is for the most sparsely populated local authorities and is the most comprehensive of their membership levels. The RSN campaigns on behalf of authorities for fairer funding for public services in rural areas. This membership package provides a wide range of targeted analysis of rural data and statistics and the work of the RSN dedicated fair funding campaign, along with topics such as the transition of the telephone system to digital fibre, the housing crisis and immigration issues for rural communities. The RSN is party to several Parliamentary APPGs that meet to discuss matters directly affecting rural communities such as East Cambridgeshire and a list of topics can be found here: <https://www.rsonline.org.uk/category/news>

James Lay

*(Not Received.)*

## **INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS**

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Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) are public bodies that manage water levels in areas where there is a special need for drainage. They reduce flood risk to people and property and they manage water levels for agricultural and environmental needs. IDBs are funded by a combination of drainage rates levied on the owners of farmland, and special levies on District and Unitary Councils. District Councils appoint representatives to IDBs, the number of representatives being determined by the IDBs by consideration of the percentage of the Board's income being paid by each Council.

Haddenham Level IDB is part of the Middle Level Commissioners, all other IDBs on which ECDC is represented are part of the Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards.

Appointment of ECDC representatives to Internal Drainage Boards has been discussed at various Council and Committee meetings<sup>1</sup> and the following process has been agreed:

1. Nominations should be invited from the Members of Council.
2. If vacancies cannot all be filled from within the District Council then;
  - a. former District Councillors who are willing to continue in their IDB role could be nominated as a layperson, and;
  - b. the relevant Parish Council(s) should be invited to submit nominations.

If there are more nominations than vacancies then consideration should be given to the candidates' prior knowledge and experience of both the geographical area and the issues relevant to IDBs. In all cases, the final decision on each appointment rests with the Finance & Assets Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> Resources & Finance Committee: 29 March 2018 (Agenda Item 11, Minute 94); 26 July 2018 (Agenda Item 12, Minute 35).  
Council: 19 April 2018 (Agenda Item 10, Minute 89).  
Finance & Assets Committee: 20 June 2019 (Agenda Item 13, Minute 17); 26 September 2019 (Agenda Item 18, Minute 56).

## **BURNT FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered:</b>	Ely North Littleport
<b>Parish Councils covered:</b>	City of Ely Council Littleport Parish Council
<b>Representation:</b>	Two Members
<b>Status of Member:</b>	Board Member
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	3
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	No (paid by the Council)
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	Yes
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):</b>	3
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
<b>Representatives for 2024/25:</b>	Cllr Martin Goodearl Derrick Beckett

### **REPORTS FROM 2023/24 REPRESENTATIVES**

Cllr Martin Goodearl (attended 1 of 3 meetings)

The Burnt Fen IDB has an important part to play in our climate and environmental objectives.

Continued representation on this IDB is essential as we as a council are levied for a sum of money each year for the service this board offers in keeping the water levels safe and manageable for all residents and farms in the Burnt Fen area. It is important that we as a Council keep an eye on how our money is being used and is of value to the public.

This body has an important role in the planning procedures and advise on water and wastewater control to the planning Officers on all new builds.

The Levy and planning are discussed by the IDB and they use us as a conduit to matter concerning the Couty Council such as Highways and culvert replacements.

Please note I only joined this IDB in February

Derrick Beckett (lay member)

*(Not received.)*

## **CAWDLE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered:</b>	Ely West
<b>Parish Councils covered:</b>	City of Ely Council
<b>Representation:</b>	Seven Members
<b>Status of Member:</b>	Board Member
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	3
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	No (paid by Council)
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	Yes
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):</b>	3
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Finance Manager, Ian Smith

<b>Representatives for 2024/25:</b>	Cllr Christine Colbert
	Cllr Kathrin Holtzmann
	Cllr Caroline Shepard
	Cllr Christine Whelan
	Rupert Moss-Eccardt
	Rebecca Denness

### **REPORTS FROM 2023/24 REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **Cllr Christine Colbert (Attended 2 of 3 meetings)**

The effective operation of the IDBs is vital to the welfare of our district, and beyond. I therefore feel it essential that ECDC continues to be represented on these bodies.

#### **Cllr Christine Whelan (attended 2 of 3 meetings)**

The whole area of East Cambridgeshire is at risk of flooding so therefore this relates to the ECDC's objectives.

Representation on the board is worthwhile as the areas discussed are in the interest of ECDC however there is little opportunity to report back at the relevant committee meetings. This should be addressed.

There is still an engineering problem with a culvert that runs along The Dock. Estimates are being sought but remediation could cost as much as £400k.

The area down by the dock was discussed as the whole drainage pipe is at risk of collapse which will cost a considerable amount of money to repair. Various options were looked into to try and make the best decision about the cost of this.

Cllr Kathrin Holtzmann (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

IDBs are indispensable ensure appropriate water management for the Fens and as such integral to creating a safe environment for residents and thus continued representation on IDBs is worthwhile and valuable.

The meetings I have attended were well run, concise and informative. The IDB's current concerns are twofold – firstly the increasing electricity costs due the substantial increase in pumping hours that was needed to cope with the very wet winter and secondly how to cost-effectively repair to the culvert next to Tesco's in Ely. The estimated cost of this is £550,000. The board is currently approaching the District Council for funding, otherwise the majority of the cost will have to be financed the Public Works Loan Board, which would result in a large increase in the Special Levy and thus council tax.

Rupert Moss-Eccardt (attended all 3 meetings)

Things haven't change much from last year:

Water management continues to be essential to support food production, protect property and underpin the local economy:-

The CPIER report alludes to significant GVA benefit from flood protection schemes. A fairly recent modelling exercise for the Great Ouse fens predicts 7-10 £bn of damage in the event of a significant flood control failure.

Many planning applications are only successful because, even though they are in Flood Zone 3, the site is protected by flood defences.

SUDSs only work if there is somewhere for the final outflow to go. IDBs move that water from catchwater drains through to the main river.

Finally, if the IDBs didn't provide a path for water to be abstracted, the local agricultural economy would fail.

So the work of the IDB is essential for the continued existence of East Cambs.

As this is a body that raises a levy against ECDC it is incumbent on ECDC to utilise its scrutiny and management power to meet its obligations to ensure the money is spent properly.

The Special Levy has been increased this year.

The engineering issue with the culvert that runs along The Dock continues. Estimates place the expected costs as over £550k for remediation. Alternatives are being sought. If the suggested remediation is the only answer and there is no Grant-In-Aid available then the Special Levy could increase by £36k/annum.

Cllr Caroline Shepard

*(Not received.)*

Rebecca Denness

*(Not received.)*

## **HADDENHAM LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered:</b>	Haddenham Stretham Sutton
<b>Parish Councils covered:</b>	Haddenham Parish Council Stretham Parish Council Sutton Parish Council Wentworth Parish Council Wilburton Parish Council
<b>Representation:</b>	Two Members
<b>Status of Member:</b>	Board Member
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	3
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	No (paid by Council)
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	Yes
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):</b>	3
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
<b>Representatives for 2024/25:</b>	Cllr Gareth Wilson Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham

### **REPORTS FROM 2023/24 REPRESENTATIVES**

Cllr Gareth Wilson (attended 2 of 2 meetings)

Drainage Boards provide a vital function in the district They are a precepting body and imposes drainage rates on all the local farmers in the Haddenham Drainage area based on their acreage. This is particularly important in the low-lying fens.

We have been discussing the managing of the exceptional wet weather we have been having and in particular the consequent result of extremely high electricity bills.

In November we decided that our District Engineer need a substantial pay rise to bring him into line with equivalent employees of other drainage boards.

We continued to monitor the effects of the large reservoir / gravel extraction near Hillrow by Mick George. Trying to ensure that it does not adversely affect the water table for nearby farms.

All board members have been asked to take a course of five online training courses and I am halfway through the course.

Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham (attended 2 of 2 meetings)

ECDC are committed to ensuring that East Cambridgeshire continues to be a district where people want to live, work and visit and ensuring flood defences are maintained is a critical element of this commitment.

Continued work on the monitoring of the construction of irrigation reservation reservoirs at Willow Hall Farm following the approval by the County Council. The HIDB has now reached an agreement with Mick George Ltd around the how the HIDB will manage, monitor and control the de-watering activities year-round.

HIDB have continued to raise concerns on the amount of seepage coming through or under the 100 ft riverbank, which this year has caused more surface water on land than we have seen before, and the refusal of the Environment Agency to acknowledge the benefit of dredging and carry it out. HIDB are also extremely concern of the proliferation of 'SUDS' on new housing developments which is not a sustainable drainage solution and is increasing run off into HIDB drainage area.

This is a precepting body with the duty of protecting the Haddenham & Aldreth area from flooding and providing irrigation for agriculture and the meetings give a real insight into issues affecting farming and agriculture. The 2023/2024 winter has seen extreme levels of rainfall and it continues to be critical that the knowledge of the issues and detail from the HIDB are understood by ECDC.



## **LITTLEPORT & DOWNHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered:</b>	Downham Villages Ely North Littleport Stretham Sutton
<b>Parish Councils covered:</b>	Coveney Parish Council Little Downham Parish Council Little Thetford Parish Council Littleport Parish Council Stretham Parish Council Wentworth Parish Council Wilburton Parish Council Witchford Parish Council
<b>Representation:</b>	Six Members
<b>Status of Member:</b>	Board Member
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	3
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	No (paid by Council)
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	Yes
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):</b>	3
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
<b>Representatives for 2024/25:</b>	Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr Lorna Dupré Cllr Martin Goodearl Cllr David Miller Parish Cllr Andrew Butcher Parish Cllr Mark Taylor

### **REPORTS FROM 2023/24 REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith (attended 3 of 3 meetings)**

This important work carried out in conjunction with other similar boards, keeps areas within the District from becoming flooded, while providing the local farming industry with water for irrigation during the dryer months & drainage dykes maintained. With the considerable level of housing development within areas of East Cambs, the IDB' s are increasingly seen as important consultees by Planning Department

Yes, it is useful to understand the part played by this and other boards within our area, and to hear from the other board members (Farmers) who while playing their own part, rely on the work of the Engineer and his workforce, to maintain the drainage system in good order.

As a result of decisions taken by the board during the last couple of years regarding staffing and an improvement in employment conditions, this is now showing a marked improvement in work patterns and allowing the Engineer more time to think strategically. Staffing is still being considered to make best use of manpower and with increased training and personal development, showing results. The plant is carefully considered to ensure that the equipment is fit for purpose and effective.

IT is used confidently by the workforce to keep a close eye on pumping stations and work in hand. The increased rainfall was dealt with during some very wet months and will be a focus as the seasons develop. Across the country flooding is an issue and the local boards track conditions carefully.

Cllr Lorna Dupré (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

Cleaner, greener East Cambridgeshire. Sustainable communities. Flooding and water management are increasingly important locally and the Internal Drainage Boards are key partners. Water management and flooding.

Cllr Martin Goodearl (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

The Littleport & Downham IDB has an important part to play in our climate and environmental objectives.

Continued representation on this IDB is essential as we as a council are levied for a sum of money each year for the service this board offers in keeping the water levels safe and manageable for all residents and farms in the Littleport & Downham area. It is important that we as a Council keep an eye on how our money is being used and is of value to the public.

This body has an important role in the planning procedures and advise on water and wastewater control to the planning Officers on all new builds.

The Levy and planning are discussed by the IDB and they use us as a conduit to matter concerning the County Council such as Highways and culvert replacements.

Cllr David Miller (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

IDBs provide infrastructure critical to flood risk management and irrigation of farmland upon which residents, farmers, Council (notably Planning), the C&P Local Resilience Forum and other infrastructure providers (notably telecommunications) alike greatly depend, to which end IDBs have the power to levy a precept on both agricultural landowners and local authorities. Continued representation on the Board remains essential, both on account of those direct interests and of the value of insight into IDB operations to other areas of Council policy. Andrew Newton, Engineer to the Board, observed that proactive participation by ECDC in respect of common interests was particularly welcome.

Recent record rainfall, electricity costs and the (recently expanded) obligation to protect aquatic life (notably critically-endangered eel species) have placed extraordinary demands upon the financial resources of Littleport & Downham IDB. Pumps installed during routine maintenance and capacity upgrades must be "fish-friendly", for example, which add to the

cost of essential activities. There are grants available from EA and elsewhere for maintenance, but not for upgrades, so the Board faces a dilemma between the identified need to upgrade capacity and the need to access such funding.

Last December, I joined a Working Party to inspect sites of pressing interest to the Board. Besides plant works, it was also evident from that outing that many culverts are in a state of disrepair, lack adequate health & safety measures for IDB staff such as handrails and some are in need of modification for the safety of the general public.

By way of example, two photos of one such culvert demonstrate the need for all of those. Some of the metal walkways are insecure, neither the walkway nor the steep downward sloping access way have handrails, and the consensus was that the inner grating (second photo) poses a danger to humans, pets and wildlife:



Parish Cllr Andrew Butcher

*(Not received.)*

Parish Cllr Mark Taylor (attended multiple meetings)

I have meeting every other week and a lot of my time checking catch waters we have monthly meetings now with Councillor Anna Bailey and others trying to sort things what have been forgotten about and what to do with the water from new developments. I am Vice Chair now of IDB.

## **MIDDLE FEN & MERE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered:</b>	Ely East Ely North Fordham & Isleham Soham North Soham South
<b>Parish Councils covered:</b>	City of Ely Council Fordham Parish Council Isleham Parish Council Soham Town Council Wicken Parish Council
<b>Representation:</b>	Five Members
<b>Status of Member:</b>	Board Member
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	3
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	No (paid by Council)
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	Yes
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):</b>	3
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
<b>Representatives for 2023/24:</b>	Cllr Ian Bovingdon Cllr Mark Goldsack Cllr Keith Horgan Cllr Lucius Vellacott Alec Jones

### **REPORTS FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVES**

Cllr Ian Bovingdon

*(Not received.)*

Cllr Mark Goldsack (attended 2 of 4 meetings)

This is a well-run, chaired and supported DB with constantly good attendance by members. The Engineer Andrew Newton has kept the room updated on all needs and issues and the office have run a good financial management routine.

There is constant dialogue with Engineer and ECDC with the D working for the good of ECDC and the residents in all that it does. The precept discussion shows consideration towards ECDC objectives and was well directed by the chairman.

Cllr Keith Horgan (attended 3 of 3 meetings)

Effective drainage of East Cambridgeshire is essential to the sustainability of our local community. Without the tireless work of our drainage boards we would soon be under water.

Yes. Staying informed on the challenges faced by the IDBs and how they are coping with increased rainfall in winter, droughts in summer and maintaining the pumping infrastructure is vital to the effective management of this key service.

The greatest issues faced by this and all IDBs can be summed up as climate change, limited funding to address this important issue and soaring energy costs. The support of the Environment Agency is becoming more and more inadequate as IDB costs rise. The only other significant source of funding is the District Council (ECDC) and farmers. Costs for the latter have increased to the point where some are considering pulling out and trying to manage their own needs as they struggle to afford the escalating costs imposed by the IDBs.

Cllr Lucius N Vellacott (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

The work of the Internal Drainage Boards is of paramount importance to the District. It helps to sustain the District Council's Corporate Objective to support businesses (farms) to thrive and improve local infrastructure. Though the work of the IDB is often overlooked by residents, agriculture and local development in East Cambs could not be sustained without it. They further retain an important role in the determination of planning applications to prevent flooding in the District, which is specifically relevant to the District Council.

Funding remains a significant issue for local flood authorities. The Special Levy required by the IDB may reach an unsustainable level for the District Council to maintain whilst keeping to its Corporate Objective to raise Council Tax only as a last resort. The IDBs and the District Council must engage to ensure the medium-term financial sustainability of their role via other means in addition to the Special Levy.

I recommend that the Council continue to appoint representatives to all Internal Drainage Boards in its jurisdiction.

Alec Jones

*(Not received.)*

## **PADNAL & WATERDEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered:</b>	Ely North Littleport
<b>Parish Councils covered:</b>	City of Ely Council Littleport Parish Council
<b>Representation:</b>	Seven Members
<b>Status of Member:</b>	Board Member
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	3
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	No (paid by Council)
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	Yes
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):</b>	3
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Finance Manager, Ian Smith

<b>Representatives for 2023/24:</b>	Cllr Alison Whelan Cllr Lis Every Parish Cllr Clive Webber tbc tbc tbc tbc
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### **REPORTS FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **Cllr Alison Whelan (attended 1 of 3 meetings)**

The nature of the land that surrounds Ely is such that water management is crucial to avoid flooding. Representation on these bodies is important to further the Council's environmental and flood prevention objectives.

Pumping requirements have been significant over the last year, reflecting the higher and more concentrated periods of rainfall. This would be a significant risk to the district if pumps failed.

The Special Levy raised from East Cambridgeshire District Council was agreed at £105,795.56 (2023 £102,191.70).

#### **Cllr Lis Every**

*(Not received)*

Parish Cllr Clive Webber (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

I represent the Littleport Town Council on the IDB. I think it's important that we support the work of the IDB and are aware of the important work that they do.

I think it is very important that ALL levels of local government continue to be represented on the IDBs, as we need to be aware of the continuing threat of flooding, the actions we can take to mitigate the risks, and the costs involved.

Keeping drainage channels clean, supplying water for irrigation and increased risk of flooding.

It is vital that East Cambs District Council work with all of the agencies that are involved in keeping the District free from flooding.

## **SWAFFHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered:</b>	Bottisham Burwell Fordham & Isleham Soham South
<b>Parish Councils covered:</b>	Bottisham Parish Council Burwell Parish Council Fordham Parish Council Lode Parish Council Reach Parish Council Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council Swaffham Prior Parish Council Wicken Parish Council
<b>Representation:</b>	Four <sup>2</sup> Members
<b>Status of Member:</b>	Board Member
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	3
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	No (paid by Council)
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	Yes
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):</b>	3
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
<b>Representatives for 2023/24:</b>	Cllr David Brown Cllr Lavinia Edwards Cllr Alan Sharp Cllr John Trapp

### **REPORTS FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **Cllr David Brown (attended 3 of 3 meetings)**

The work of the IDB is of fundamental importance to residents and businesses in East Cambridgeshire in managing water and keeping people and properties safe. As an organisation which raises a levy on ECDC, it is vital that elected members have continued representation to ensure that any levy is justifiable. This has been especially true this year, where the wet weather, meaning above average pumping being required, coupled with high energy prices, has meant the need for a significant increase in rates.

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<sup>2</sup> Four Members plus one nominee jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). SCDC makes the joint appointment by reciprocal agreement of June 1990 whereby ECDC makes the joint appointment to Waterbeach Level IDB. Appointments are for 3 years.



Cllr Lavinia Edwards (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

The work of the Swaffham Drainage Board fits in with ECDC's Corporate Objective because the drainage board maintains a large area of drainage networks in the District.

I think the continued representation of the Drainage Board is worthwhile because the District has a large agricultural element with much employment in this field. The Drainage Board is also a consultee for planning applications.

Items relevant to ECDC which have been discussed by the Outside Body include setting the levy, climate change, drainage, wildlife, agricultural and flood issues.

Cllr Alan Sharp

*(Not received.)*

Cllr John Trapp

*(Not received.)*

## **WATERBEACH LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered:</b>	Stretham Soham South
<b>Parish Councils covered:</b>	Little Thetford Parish Council Stretham Parish Council Wicken Parish Council
<b>Representation:</b>	One <sup>3</sup> Member
<b>Status of Member:</b>	Board Member
<b>No. meetings per year:</b>	3
<b>Expenses paid by organisation:</b>	No (paid by Council)
<b>Insurance provision:</b>	Yes
<b>Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):</b>	3
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
<b>Representative for 2023/24:</b>	David Chaplin

### **REPORT FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVE**

David Chaplin (lay member)

*(Not received.)*

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<sup>3</sup> One Member jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). ECDC makes the joint appointment by reciprocal agreement of June 1990 whereby SCDC makes the joint appointment to Swaffham IDB. Appointments are for 3 years.