

Annual Report to Great Wilbraham in the Fulbourn Division by Mathew Morgan, County Councillor. 2025/26

Many Thanks:

The most joyous event in Great Wilbraham I have attended in the past year has been my own wedding meal after my marriage to the lovely Julianna. But Great Wilbraham residents have also provided almost as much joy as this event on several occasions and much sage advice. Although I cannot remember exactly how he made it, Ian Cumming's doing a live cookery demonstration with his Apple Cake at the annual feast sticks in my mind as does the excellent presentation given by Christine Page and David Richer as they clinched County Council funding for the Great Wilbraham school zebra crossing.

It would be remiss not to mention my incredible gratitude to Claire Daunton, the former County Councillor who is responsible for the Local Highways Initiatives and the Pavement Resurfacing on this list along with the Parish Council, and has acted as a ceaseless guide and mentor in my first year. Thanks also to the retiring District Councillors John Williams and Graham Cone for their dedication to Little Wilbraham. The best of luck to both of them.

Completed In Year:

Road Surfaces 

Expedited Mill Road planings, dragon patching and smaller pothole repairs. Further work is required as the road degrades quickly after repairs due to traffic. Reported and expedited pothole repairs on Wilbraham Road and The Lanes amongst others.

Pavements

Preparations for footways surface improvements for Church Street, Church Close, High Street, The Squires Field, Station Road and Angle End. Awaiting treatments in 2026/27 year.

Junction Improvements

Advisory signage against HGVs added on Mill Road. No legal mechanism of adding non-advisory signage.

Significant funding via County Council Local Highways, and seperate safety fund for Great Wilbraham School Zebra Crossing. This should help protect school children on their way to school.

Drainage

A11 Mill road slip roads Gulleys cleared after many years, reducing the risk of a flood on dangerous slip roads.

Walks and Greenery

Attempted to get the County Council to clear Station Road verges to open up the verges for walkers to Wilbraham Common. Despite best efforts this was unsuccessful. So successfully asked (and helped) volunteers to help to clear. Many thanks to Nick Toovey and Hillary Burton amongst others.

Consultations

Attending events and writing responses to Newmarket Park and Ride, Lolworth to Rede Water Pipeline, Kingsway Solar, Local Government Reorganisation, Cambridge Growth Company.

Completed In Year (Continued):

Committee and Full Council Votes

I sat on the Highways Committee and The Assets and Procurement Committee at the Council. There were many different votes but highlights for me included:

I voted for Option A for Local Government Reform. (Combining Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire with the County Council to form a local authority). I believe Option B (Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire) is likely easier for Little Wilbraham residents in the short run due to good working relationships and shared services, but Option A is a more sensible geography in the longer term, including more villages and towns that strongly identify with Cambridge and Little Wilbraham, such as Bottisham in East Cambridgeshire.

Almost £60 million funding for highways. Over double the level of investment than when the Conservatives were in situ. Both the Conservatives and Reform Voted against a standalone funding package for longer term improvement roads.

Reports on the new IT system for Highways: Aurora. A key part of improving road repairs and making sure your money is used efficiently. Replacing the 20 odd year old desktop shackled system we were previously using.

Heads of Terms for further development of Cambridge Biomedical Campus, the world important site of Addenbrooke's Hospital and host to research institutions that have developed world-shaking drugs like adalimumab. I was very active in the closed session probing whether the project will have adequate architectural quality, and making sure the financing agreements with the developers allow taxpayers a fair return. There were very good cross-party discussions on protecting nature.

Others 🌍🎉

I encouraged the County Council's digital connectivity team to pick Great Wilbraham Church as a trial site for improving connectivity in rural Cambridgeshire. It was picked as a trial site, and work is ongoing for permissions. Several mobile networks are interested, but no definitive funding is in place yet. Thanks to the Parochial Church Council for entertaining this idea from County and CS Net.

Over the half year I have access to my reported faults I have reported around 70-90 faults across the Division using "report a fault" in addition to direct emails to officers about other faults. The vast majority of these faults will be other than potholes, as potholes are often reported very quickly by assiduous residents and visible on the system. Residents can use: <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/en-gb> as the quickest way to report all highways faults.

In progression:

Road Surfaces 🚗🛣️

Requested surface treatment and edge repairs for Mill road as part of the annual capital maintenance budget. Frustratingly, I was unsuccessful. I will need to re-request and lobby officers more.

Footpaths

Surface Dressings (Smooth and easier to walk on) for Church Street, Church Close, High Street, The Squires Field, Station Road and Angle End funded in 2026-27 year.

Footpath widening at Ian Cummings house (Church Street) progressing well with officers.

Road closures

Road Closures of Station Road Fulbourn. Have loaded with residents about past closures and ongoing planning for 3 or 5 week closure in Autumn 2026.

Cycling Improvements

Despite concerted efforts from the Wilbrahams Joint Cycling Group and Ed Williams from County Council, affordable, viable options to improve cycling toward Fulbourn or Bottisham are frustratingly limited. A 40mph speed limit for Wilbraham Road to Fulbourn and Wilbraham Road to Bottisham is now in development. While not a perfect solution, it should improve safety for cyclists. It should also improve safety for motorists at the blind bridge towards Fulbourn.

Junction Improvements

Chased Great Wilbraham Triangle Safety improvement, which has funding several times, no update from CPCA. I will need to chase more vociferously.

Drainage

Very slow movement on funded Church Road Drainage scheme despite chasing. Meant to start in 2026/27 year.

In progression (Continued):

Consultations

Detailed EWR consultation response on Train Care Centre pending further discussions and answers about site selection that have not been answered at consultation events so far. Attended events on EWR more widely than Fulbourn and to write a broader response for the entire route, focussing on Cambridge Section.

To Consider:

Busses

Bus services are now managed by the Combined Authority rather than the County Council, and I have found liaison with their team difficult. The Authority is redesigning the network for bus franchising in 2028, but Parish Councils and Councillors might feel excluded from discussions. I will retry arranging a route meeting.

Lighting

Funding for reinstatement of a small handful (3-4) streetlights might be available for replacing streetlights from those that were previously removed in the 2010s. Alan Hitch, Lighting officer can arrange a meeting to discuss this, I have forwarded to the parish clerk.

Nature

The County Council will open the Local Nature Recovery Plan to the village in 2027, offering opportunities to identify and improve nature, increase nature dedicated areas, and potentially establish community ownership of natural assets. This could be an excellent grassroots project for both Wilbraham villages. I also plan to spend more time this year understanding the chalk streams and supporting the River Protection Society's quest for properly managed

augmentation by the Environment Agency, and I want to liaise with Council Officers and Farmers to see where we might deliver nature corridors.

Community Housing 🏠🤝

Although it is outside my remit as a County Councillor I think that many residents in the village recognise houses are often unaffordable, and rarely available for sale. I've also talked to residents that are concerned about cherished institutions like Great Wilbraham School, which faces falling enrollment numbers. Villages can build rural exception sites that allow for community-led building projects, which I believe can lead to better design and nature provision. I know Hillary Burton in Great Wilbraham has recently talked to ACRE on this issue and I am happy to assist if any County Council issues arise with any continuation of this line of enquiry.