

District Councillors Report to Parishes

Fen Ditton, Fulbourn, Horningsea, Stow-Cum-Quy, Teversham, Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham and Six-Mile-Bottom.

September 2026

Solar Farm approved at Low Fen Drove Way

South Cambridgeshire District Council has approved plans for a solar farm and battery energy-storage system on land off Low Fen Drove Way, near Horningsea.

Application **25/01014/FUL**, submitted by Innova Renewables Developments Ltd, was approved by SCDC's Planning Committee on 12 August 2026 by four votes to one, subject to planning conditions and the formal decision notice being finalised.

The development will occupy approximately 74 hectares—around 183 acres—of agricultural land. It will comprise approximately 49MW of solar generation together with a 10MW battery energy-storage system, substations, access tracks, fencing and associated infrastructure.

Innova estimates that the solar farm could generate electricity equivalent to the annual consumption of approximately 13,422 homes and save around 10,909 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

Permission is for a 40-year operational period. At the end of that period, the equipment must be removed and the land restored to agricultural use.

Innova Community funding

Innova has publicly committed to establishing an annual Community Benefit Fund and a separate Charitable Fund for the lifetime of the project.

The developer's current project website identifies annual payments of:

- **£12,475 to a Community Benefit Fund; and**
- **£4,990 to a Charitable Fund.**

These are presently the developer's published figures and remain subject to formal confirmation. The community payments are voluntary arrangements made by Innova and are separate from the planning permission. They did not form part of SCDC's decision on whether the development should be approved.

Further information:

- [SCDC Planning Committee decision](#)
- [SCDC announcement](#)
- [Innova's Low Fen Drove Way project page](#)

Closure of Ida Darwin Nursery in 2028

This Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust facility has about 12 NHS staff supporting around 50 part time co-workers. The funding comes from the County Council and the farm shop itself and its contract with the current operator to run the facility is due to end in 2028.

This issue of its closure has been rumbling away for a couple of years now. The Trust's official explanation is: rising costs associated with the site; the difficult financial position facing the Trust; and a need to concentrate limited NHS resources on what it regards as "core NHS services". CPFT's statement of 12 June 2026.

What happens in April 2028?

CPFT says it will work with Cambridgeshire County Council to ensure continuity of care. The County Council has said that the present service will continue normally until the contract ends.

The possible outcomes are therefore:

1. another provider takes over Darwin on the existing site;
2. CPFT leases or transfers the site to the County Council, a charity or social enterprise;
3. the co-workers are moved to alternative day services and Darwin closes; or
4. CPFT retains or disposes of the land for another purpose.

No outcome has yet been confirmed. Cambridge City Council has formally called on the County Council and CPFT to keep the service on its present site, and Pippa Heylings MP is campaigning for that result

We would encourage our community to support it by visiting the shop and cafe more.

Wildfire Risk and Prevention

The Secretary of State is encouraging local authorities to continue providing clear prevention messaging to the public, aligned to the work of local fire and rescue services. Further resources can be found on through the [Prepare site](#) and the [Fire Kills Campaign](#) which you may wish to use to support your local communications.

You can help by sharing the [UK Government Facebook post](#) urging people to take extra care during drought conditions.

EWR update for Fulbourn train care station.

There has been encouraging progress. The study being undertaken with train operators, including GTR and Greater Anglia, has identified five potential alternative locations for the Train Care Centre, none of which are within Cambridgeshire. The original 15 minute operational constraint was removed because the Industry Solution is not being developed solely around East West Rail's requirements. Instead, the focus is on making better use of existing Network Rail land and enhancing existing sidings elsewhere on the network.

Over the coming months, a detailed options report will be produced to assess the confidence in these alternative sites. There is still work to do with the rail industry to overcome operational challenges, including train movements, access to and from the sites, and speed restrictions.

EWR expects that by September or October one of three positions will be reached:

1. The Industry Solution has progressed sufficiently and Fulbourn can be removed from the DCO.
2. Good progress has been made, but there is not yet enough confidence to remove Fulbourn from the DCO.
3. The operational challenges prove insurmountable, in which case Fulbourn would remain the proposed location in the DCO submission.

The DCO submission itself is not expected until late summer 2027, so there is still time for this work to progress. There appears to be a genuine determination within East West Rail to make the Industry Solution work if it is operationally viable.

Your councillors

Carla, Chloe and Vince