

LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLORS REPORT NOV2026

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (NOV 2026)

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (9TH NOV 2026)

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (24TH 2026)

CLLR SUNITA HANSRAJ & CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

October has been an extremely busy month across the Longstanton Ward, and we would like to thank the residents in the community, the community groups, and the two Parish Councils and Town Council for working with us on a variety of cases and situations to manage. There have been some specific areas of focus for people across the community which include most prominently concerns related to ASB, Environment, and the local plan.

You will see in this update that we have given each other lead and support roles on different topics we are dealing with across the ward to share out the work as there is a lot to cover. We step in to cover one another to make sure we are always available on these topics.

Here are some updates for all three councils in the ward to bring you up to speed:

Longstanton Ward Key Updates

Anti-social Behaviour (District Council Lead: Sunita. Support Tilly).

Police action

- Police have increased patrols and acted regarding incidents at the Co-op and the primary school. There have been arrests.
- Incidents have reduced following police intervention although residents are still posting about their fears so any information that can be reported about ongoing issues is critical to managing the situation.
- Undercover Police are patrolling and need more information if occurrence happen when they are not in the area.
- The 4th of Nov is the next Police online engagement which is often not well attended. Please can Parish and Town councillors and clerk signpost councillors and residents to this .

Partnership working

- The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) holds regular meetings with the Police, schools, social care, landlords and other agencies to coordinate enforcement and support
- The Town Council has an allocated Councillor at these meetings and is responsible for providing feedback and updates to the wider council. It's good that a town councillor is assigned and we are happy to work with them on issues arising.
- We would like to know who the appropriate councillor lead is for Oakington & Westwick and Longstanton PCs if this is not the clerk as we are currently working primarily through your clerks. This is not a problem, although different to the approach in Northstowe so we'd like to be clear.

Youth intervention

- In Northstowe, Youth Hive activities, family support workers and preventative youth justice services are available to support young people and families. The Northstowe Community Team and County Council officers can help with appropriate contacts for residents.
- In Oakington the Community Youth Bus Service operates on a Monday evening and appears well attended by youths.
- Oakington Air Cadets Charity is also growing and now supports 50, 12-18 year olds, who come from Oakington, Longstanton and Northstowe. They are applying for grants and may well approach the PC's and NTC for endorsements.

Support for businesses

- Police have responded to concerns about the Co-op, but the response provides limited detail about specific support offered to affected staff and businesses due to GDPR restrictions.
- NTC will need to contact the police directly if they need any specific information although GDPR will still be in force for any conversations or feedback.
- Businesses, like residents, ought to join the police call on 4th November if they have specific questions. Please signpost them.

Communication

- Northstowe Town Council is due to receive regular CSP updates from November.
- If this is also required by the Parish Councils please contact CSP to organise this.

Motorbikes

- Motorbikes have been a particular concern for Oakington & Westwick and Longstanton residents who hear them regularly on the bridleways.
- Police don't always have the right equipment available to pursue motorbikes. They have to be careful in doing so because the rider may not be wearing a helmet, or might be under 18 years of age so they may not be able to pursue at all.
- Having said this, police did arrest two fifteen year olds on bridleways in the Histon area recently and this was reported in the news and on social media. It's clear that action can be taken when possible.

Quality of reports

- The quality of reports made to Police is crucial. They have been patrolling Northstowe and Longstanton recently and have repeated that any identification of patterns of days and times, or where these relate to different behaviours or vehicles can help Police to use that patrol time to more impact.
- The quality of information given can make a big difference to the Police and partners to effectively respond to concerns.
- The Police will feedback what they can to victims and parish councils, they also share what information they can on their social media pages.
- PCs and NTC can support this by re-sharing the information from the Police, reiterating those messages to residents.

Neighbourhood Watch

- We believe you have neighbourhood watch groups in parts of Longstanton Ward.
- It would be useful to know how is that working please? Can Neighbourhood watch to other areas to support more reporting so that Police and CSP can respond as soon as possible after a concerning event.
- It would be good if representatives from the neighbourhood watch groups can be on the call on Nov 4th. Please can you let them know it is on.

Environment (District Council Lead: Tilly, Support: Sunita).

Dog Bins in Northstowe

- Residents from all over the Ward who walk their dogs at the lake have complained about the overflowing dog poo bins. These bins are the responsibility of Anglia Water.
- However we arranged this month for SCDC to collect piles of bags and the SCDC waste team is working with Anglia Water to encourage them to attend more often.
- Please ask residents to continue to report issues to Anglia Water as they ought to step up and attend more often from now. If the issue needs escalating again please come back to us.

Grant Funding (District Council Lead: Sunita Support: Tilly).

- Sunita has been working closely with community groups on the identification of grants, and has also supplied a list of places that grants can be sourced other than from SCDC to Longstanton PC.

- If any PC or NTC councillors or community groups need more information on grants please contact Sunita who has an ongoing list of grants that can be shared with you.

Local Plan (District Council Lead: Tilly, Support: Sunita).

- Ward resident and community environment and sustainability groups have raised concerns with us about the green areas of the local plan, especially between Northstowe and Oakington, potentially diminishing, especially if the new Devco gets more powers when it starts fully operating.
- Tilly has been gathering information about the greenbelt rules and possibilities for development from GCP and our local planning lead, as well as gathering information about nature initiatives across South Cambs, to support EAG and Sustainable O&W as they consider nature options.
- Our County Councillor, Luis Navarro is working with us on environment and has been discussing activities with the County Environment team to gather information on funding and initiatives of interest to the ward.
- PC and TC councillors will be kept aware of the local activity. It would be useful to know who your lead is for Environment please for invites to any potential meetings about this.

SCDC Key Updates

Empty Homes
South Cambs is launching a new policy on the purchase of homes that have been empty for a very long time, which have fallen into disrepair, and which have consequently incurred debt. We have about 100 empty homes on our books and expect between 7-10 to reach this stage of 'enforced sale'. If you need help to bring a home back into use please do contact the council for advice.

Ukrainian Guests
The government has now reduced its payment to hosts of Ukrainian guests to £100 from £350 per week. This means that some hosts may no longer be able to afford to continue to be hosts. We are, therefore, encouraging people to move onto 'lodging agreements' which is a government scheme (Rent a Room) allowing people to rent out a room and to receive up to £7500 rent per annum tax free. If you are a host in this situation please do talk to us as we can offer a lot of help.

National Planning Reforms
The Government has made significant changes to decision making in planning. Under the government's statutory National Scheme of Delegation (NSoD), taking effect 31 October 2026, all local planning authorities must follow strict national rules.

Crucially, the government has abolished parish council's "call-in" powers which removes their opportunity to request that local applications are decided by planning committees. What does this means?

Householder applications and minor schemes of up to 9 dwellings, must be determined by a planning officer and cannot go to the committee

Major developments also carry a presumption of officer delegation and can only be referred to committee via a strict "Gateway Test" agreed between a senior planning officer and the Planning Committee Chair.

The reality is that the vast majority of planning applications are already decided by a highly skilled planning officer but this makes it a whole lot more difficult to take applications, that may be controversial, to the planning committee were a panel of 15 elected councillors make the final decision. The government hope that this will speed up planning but the reality is that over 95% of planning applications are approved - most in a timely manner, and there are many other factors that mean that approved schemes are not getting built fast enough.

These changes do not mean that parish councils and residents cannot submit comment or objections/support to applications. It is arguably even more important that you do.

Reducing Fly Tipping
A new campaign has launched to help residents dispose of unwanted items responsibly and reduce fly-tipping across South Cambridgeshire.The "Your Waste, Your Responsibility" campaign reminds residents they have a duty of care to ensure their waste is passed to a properly licensed, registered waste carrier to dispose of. Since the start of 2024/25, the Council has received more than 3,800 reports of fly-tipping in South Cambridgeshire.

A simple slogan at the heart of the campaign – Check it. Trust it. Prove it. – highlights the important role residents can play in preventing waste from ending up in the countryside, villages and public spaces by ensuring anyone they pay to remove waste is legally authorised to do so.

• Check that you are using a licensed waste carrier, via the Environment Agency waste carrier register.
• Trust that you are handing over your waste to be responsibly disposed of.
• Prove it by keeping the receipt or waste transfer document.Many people believe they are doing the right thing when they pay someone to take away unwanted furniture, household items or garden waste – with appeals for people to remove household waste common on local Facebook groups. However, if that person is not a licensed waste carrier, there is a risk the waste could be illegally dumped elsewhere, contributing to fly-tipping incidents that blight local communities and the environment.

Residents who use an unlicensed waste carrier can be held responsible if their waste is later found fly-tipped and can be traced back to them, potentially resulting in a Fixed Penalty Notice. Failing to check your waste is being handled legally can be costly, with fines of up to £600 for breaching your household waste duty of care, and a further £300 for failing to produce a Waste Transfer Note. Since the start of 2024/25, the Council has fined or prosecuted almost 70 people for fly-tipping.

Community Chest Grants
An additional £20,000 is set to be invested in South Cambridgeshire District Council's popular Community Chest grant scheme, helping more local groups deliver projects that benefit people across the district.

This year, the Community Chest budget was initially set at £64,890, with a further £11,010 for biodiversity projects. The biodiversity fund has now been fully allocated, while the main Community Chest fund has seen consistently strong demand. At the Grants Advisory Committee meeting on 24 September, councillors approved five more Community Chest applications seeking a total of £9,021. This left just under £14,000 in the Community Chest budget for the rest of the financial year. The meeting therefore heard that the Council is allocating an additional £20,000 towards its Community Chest - to boost the grants available and help ensure more worthwhile community projects receive funding through to 31 March 2027.

More National Awards for South Cambs

Teams from South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council are celebrating after winning a national award for their work helping residents access vital support.

The project helped more than 80 children access free school meals which they were eligible for but had not previously been receiving, securing £1 million of additional funding for local schools in the process.

Communities, Climate and Clean Air event – Tuesday 17 November

Residents are invited to attend Communities, Climate and Clean Air, an informative community event exploring the connections between air quality, public health, climate change and sustainable living.

The event will take place at Histon Methodist Church on Tuesday 17 November, from 7pm to 9pm. You will hear from speakers and local experts about the impacts of air pollution, including emissions from domestic wood burning, and learn about practical steps that can help create healthier homes and communities. The event aims to encourage discussion, raise awareness and inspire positive action to improve local air quality while supporting climate goals. Attendance is free, refreshments will be provided and all are welcome. You can sign up to the event on the South Cambs website.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
The Government continues to ask councils to pause implementation work on LGR. We are now being told that we will be informed about the Cambridgshire and Region LGR decision 'before Christmas'.

Our Member of Parliament

Ian Sollom is working with us across the ward on case work. His email address is Ian.Sollom.MP@parliament.uk . Ian's office staff answer emails as soon as practically possible. He welcomes correspondence from residents requiring his assistance.

COUNCILS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOVERNMENT FUNDED ORGANISATIONS

The organisational structure of Cambridgeshire is complex, but it is important to identify where responsibility lies so that we can help you:

County Council Responsibilities: Education, Transport, Highways, Heritage, Social care, Libraries, Trading standards, - Waste management, Maintaining their estate. Some of these services are shared between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council but any concerns should be directed to the county council.
District Council Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning.
Parish Council Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Open spaces, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters.
Northstowe Town Council Responsibilities: Managing community spaces and grant funding.
Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) 'The local delivery body for a City Deal with central Government worth up to £500 million over 15 years, to vital improvements in infrastructure (decarbonising transport), supporting and accelerating the creation of 44,000 new jobs, 33,500 new homes and 420 additional apprenticeships.' Partnership between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, University of Cambridge.
The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor 'A combined authority (CA) is a legal body set up using national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.' What our mayor does – Business support, skills, housing, transport, environment, international, digital connectivity, resilience, research, and strategy. New homes.
Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge and Peterborough To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority The Fire Authority is the governing body responsible for delivering a fire and rescue service to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is made up of Cambridgeshire County Councillors and Peterborough City Councillors.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the above, or any other matters.

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For those on social media we have a highly active Facebook group:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/ - Longstanton, Oakington and Northstowe