

LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLOR REPORT DECEMBER 2025

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (1ST DEC 2025)

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (8TH DEC 2025)

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (16TH DEC 2025)

CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

My Local Activity Highlights

In November I was on bereavement leave for some of the time, however I kept my case work up to date and a couple of things to mention related to my activity on the ground, which I think may be of interest across the Ward, include:

- Spending time with SCDC Empty Homes officer in Oakington, where activity on bringing empty homes back into use is active and positive. People are responding well in the village to the initiative, and to understanding the value of bringing houses back into use to residents, the implication of government levies of keeping some homes empty (probate policy/law), as well as understanding how businesses involved in bringing homes back into use can benefit from VAT breaks as a result of working on these. See <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/empty-homes> for more information about how to bring empty homes back into use.
- Working with our Principal Operations Manager – Environment, to understand the early analysis of the initiative Anti Littering Trial on the B1050, which some of you will have seen mentioned in the Press. After just three weeks the trial was proving successful with a comparison made that prior to the trial in three weeks an average of 13 bags of litter were collected by the team every three weeks and at the end of the first three weeks of the trial the team collected just 7 bags of litter and one small chest (fly tip). The trial has been stopped now until the new year in response to some concern being raised by a resident about the look of the eye signs being used on the B1050 which you may have seen appear in the Local and National Press. Given the early success of the trial in reducing litter, we will be looking at how we may approach the trial with a different look in 2026 with the aim of reducing litter in our ward.

SCDC Update

Postal Voters

If residents previously had a postal vote and wish to continue to have one, they should **reapply now** if they have not already done so. www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote . If you have any questions or wish to cancel your postal vote, please email elections@scambs.gov.uk

Draft Local Plan – Consultation Commences 1st December

Local Plans are a statutory requirement for all Councils and form an important part of any future plans for the area and SCDC and Cambridge City Council are working together to create a single updated version for the ones adopted in 2018. The Local Plan is vitally important because it will show where new homes and workplaces could be built over the next 20 years - and how essential community facilities and public services would be developed to support the expected growth. It is even more critical this time, given the Government's recent announcement of its plans for a Development Corporation and for substantial additional investment in our area to drive forward its ambitions.

The developing draft Local Plan will open for public consultation on 1st December and remain open until 30th January 2026. There is much to read but it is all quite accessible and the summaries are useful. For our Ward, the information on Northstowe will be of most interest, as well as the context of the planned growth to be seen

in Waterbeach, Bourn, Cambourne, NE Cambs, and the wider consequences of living in an area to which companies and people wish to move which are well covered in the Plan. There will be a number of public briefings, including ones for parish councils which Clerks will be aware of. Please exercise your right to comment.

All relevant documents and the link to comment should appear here on 1st December: [Home | Greater Cambridge Shared Planning](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the Planning Policy Team: localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org

Food collections update

Early next year, the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service will begin rolling out its scheme for the weekly collection of food waste. This is to comply with new government policy, and the government is funding the new arrangements, not council tax payers. The first collection rounds will be operational in January 2026 as part of a staged approach and Clerks will be made aware of the timing of the roll out ward by ward.

The council will soon begin a campaign to explain what the changes are and how they will affect people, using direct communications (post/hand delivery) as well as electronic means to ensure that the information reaches everyone. 5L kitchen caddies and 23L outdoor wheely bins will be provided to contain the food waste and collection days will not change. The food waste will be processed locally in a separate process to those used for black and green bin waste and will produce biogas which will be used to generate electricity. A by-product of the process will be soil improver. I will share more information to you as and when I receive it.

Local Government Review (LGR) update

As I mentioned in earlier reports, the government has decreed that all county, borough and district councils are to be abolished across the nation and the services they provide taken by fewer, larger unitary councils. Following discussions with all councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, a number of different options have been worked up which were recently discussed by SCDC at an Extraordinary Council Meeting. Following debate, the council voted to propose that "Option B" be recommended to government which would see South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City form a unitary council with a second unitary being formed by East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough. The other Cambridgeshire councils favour different options, and they have presented their own cases to government. The final decision rests with the Secretary of State, and he is likely to announce his decision in spring 2026 but it will take until 2028 for the new unitary councils to become active. Elections next May for South Cambs District Council seats will take place as normal whatever the outcome.

Award for the Local Planning Authority

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service (a partnership between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils) has recently been crowned Planning Authority of the Year by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). This national award is for planning excellence and follows the award of Planning Authority of the Year (East of England) earlier this year. The RTPI Awards are among the most respected accolades in the planning profession. Everyone at South Cambs is immensely proud of the planning team.

Our Member of Parliament

Ian.Sollom.MP@parliament.uk Ian is active across the constituency, and continues to hold regular surgeries which we will keep you informed of for residents. His office staff answer emails as soon as practically possible. He welcomes correspondence from residents requiring his assistance.

COUNCILS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOVERNMENT FUNDED ORGANISATIONS

If you have a problem or concern do not worry too much about who can solve it just ask the question and we will endeavour to signpost to the right person. The organisational structure of Cambridgeshire is complex, but it is important to identify where responsibility lies.

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/ Town Council

Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Open spaces, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters.

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 me if you have any questions about the above, or any other matters.

Cllr Natalie Warren-Green for Longstanton Ward including Longstanton, Northstowe, and Oakington & Westwick

Email: cllr.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk

For those on social media we have a highly active Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/> - Longstanton, Oakington and Northstowe