

LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLOR REPORT NOVEMBER 2025

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (10TH NOV 2025)

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (10TH NOV 2025)

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (25TH NOV 2025)

CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

My Local Activity Highlights

October has been busy across the ward. Highlights for my activity include:

- Chairing the LEGG meeting between LEGG/Longstanton PC and GCP (Greater Cambs Planning) officers. Next, there will be a biodiversity plan worked up for Longstanton Ponds with: LEGG coming up with initial thinking on this; and learning on building impact on water levels are being ploughed by GCP into the further development of Northstowe and other new developments in South Cambs. I will continue to stay close to this following up with LEGG, and with GCP / Homes England / Environment Agency to ensure ownership is clear on who will keep the water concern high on the agenda for thinking and action.
- Chairing the Wilson's Way meeting which included stakeholders representing Longstanton PC, and representatives for Equine, Cycling, Hiking, County, Wheelchair users. GCP Confirmed that Homes England has halted development of Wilson's Way for now as the County Council development and alternative proposal/plan for developing and maintaining Wilsons Way as a Leisure Route. It will not be a commuter route and the proposal will take into account the types of Leisure Users likely to use this route as Northstowe population grows.
- Being thrilled to be invited to be Guest of Honour, lighting the Candles as part of Diwali in Northstowe. A totally uplifting experience and fabulous to have this energy and positivity on our doorstep shared throughout the community.
- Running, with the SCDC Environment team, the 2025 Climate and Nature Conference. Many thanks to the participants from Oakington EAG, Northstowe TC, and Representing the interests of Environment across Longstanton/Local bridleway routes.
- Following up with SCDC Officers on the B1050 reduction of littering/ fly tipping initiative on findings to date. These will be shared in November by SCDC with the representatives from Longstanton PC and Northstowe PC whose residents make heavy use of this road in November. The Trail is due to continue to April 2027 and at each catch up we will discuss progress on the aim for reducing litter and in turn reducing time/cost of litter picking.
- Following up with SCDC Waterways lead officer on management of water flow at Beck Brook. Discussions are almost complete with Environment Agency on who will manage this strip of waterway to manage potential flooding. Andrew Dennis and the PC will be informed of the decision in October. I am confident that any potential areas of blockage concern will be dealt with ahead of winter water rises.

As a follow up to my October report on Case Work related to ASB, thank you for the discussions about this and please do continue to encourage people to report issues. The more the Police and SCDC hear the more support we'll get for the ward, based on real examples of need. Thanks to all of you spreading the word.

SCDC Update

Postal Voters

If you have had a postal vote in the past, you will have to reregister if you still want one for future elections starting next May. This can be done on the South Cambs District Council website, or you can ring up for an application form. It is a very simple process. 01954 713000

Cabinet and Town / Parish Council Liaison Meeting 11 Nov.

A reminder to elected members that we are holding the above meeting for all parish and town councils in the South Cambs District Council Chamber at 6.30-8.30pm on Tuesday 11th November 2025. Please take advantage of this opportunity to hear about the Emerging Local Plan, Local Government Reorganisation and New Climate & Nature Strategy 2026-30.

4-Day Week in the news

South Cambridgeshire District Council seems to be back in the press over its move to a 4-day working week, since a minister in the 'new' government decided to write to Bridget. Just to be clear, the council is open 5 days a week and many services are available 24/7. The contact centre is actually open longer hours than before the change. The Minister focused on council housing performance but had not looked at the data in any detail which shows that the council is in the top 25% of councils nationally for performance on reletting vacant council houses, for doing repairs (despite that being outsourced to a company working 5 days a week) and for council rent collection. 100% of emergency repairs are carried out in 24 hours. On top of this we are saving just under £400,000 per year as a direct result of the 4-day week due to significant improvements in staff recruitment and less reliance on agency staff; planning applications are approved on average 3 weeks quicker and people's benefit claims are sorted 3 days earlier. There is a lot more positive information available on our website.

Local Government Reorganisation

The County Council has agreed to submit Option A (2 unitary councils, with South Cambs combining with Cambridge City and East Cambridgeshire) to Government for its consideration later this month. Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire will vote on what option to submit later this month.

Anglian Water (AW) Fen Reservoir Consultation

The third phase of AW's non-statutory consultation for a new Fens Reservoir DCO commenced on 15 October and will run for 8 weeks until 10 December 2025. It can be accessed here:

<https://fensreservoir.co.uk/documents/>

In summary: The pipeline runs south of Bluntisham, via Swavesey, to the proposed service reservoir site at Madingley. The pipeline corridor (the area within which the pipeline could be located) is up to 500 metres wide. The proposed site for the new service reservoir is to the south of Madingley (on the existing Cambridge Water site). It will have an approximate capacity of 30 megalitres (Ml) on a land area of approximately 13 hectares.

Draft Local Plan " –The most important document you've never heard of"

The draft Local Plan and supporting evidence has just been published ahead of a public consultation which will run between 1 Dec 2025 – 30 Jan 2026. Cambridge City Council and South Cambs are working together to create this joint Local Plan for the Greater Cambridge area. The plan sets out the future land use and planning policies for the area for the period 2024-2045.

The Local Plan identifies the need for new homes and jobs, the services and infrastructure to support them, and guides where this development should happen. It has been informed by several stages of public engagement and working with stakeholders. There is a useful little video to help people understand what the Local Plan is and its importance: [What is a Local Plan for Greater Cambridge?](#)

If you have any questions about the Draft Local Plan, please contact the Planning Policy Team: lo-calplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org

'How are we doing?' survey

SCDC has recently launched a new 'How Are We Doing' Survey to give residents, businesses and other stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the Council's services – both positive and negative – to ensure that we are delivering the best services possible. The feedback received will be reported to the Leadership Team and the appropriate teams. If you wish to comment, please use the QR code below or follow this link: www.scams.gov.uk/leave-feedback Official complaints or service requests should still go through the usual channels.



OxCam Growth Corridor and Cambridge Growth Company

We have cautiously welcomed the Government's announcement that they will invest up to £400 million to help solve some of the challenges that hamper inclusive and sustainable growth in the area.

The Government has announced its intention to consult on setting up a centrally led Development Corporation to help plan, manage, and deliver large-scale development projects in Greater Cambridge (South Cambs and Cambridge City).

We have been saying for many years that national intervention on matters such as water supply, wastewater, power, transport and healthcare has been urgently needed, and we have lobbied successive governments for their help in solving these problems. Lack of water supply and infrastructure to deal with wastewater is already insufficient to ensure all the current locally planned high quality new communities and homes can be delivered.

Like any announcement of this kind, further discussion and details are now needed to understand the Government's intentions and to ensure it also supports local priorities, especially those of village communities.

Both councils will work with Government to ensure decisions on the precise form and purpose that any development corporation takes are shaped and informed by good evidence and input from the democratically elected and accountable leaders for the area. Once more information is known the Government will consult local residents on setting up a development corporation, allowing local voices to be heard.

The Government's announcement included:

- Up to £400 million of initial government funding to kickstart development
- A pledge to increase the supply of affordable homes
- Investment in infrastructure
- Business expansion – with £15 million for the University of Cambridge for a proposed Innovation Hub to create lab space for science start-ups to grow and compete on the global stage.

Bringing empty homes back into use

A major milestone has been reached in tackling long-term empty homes in South Cambridgeshire, with 75 properties brought back into use in the last three years. Success stems from the District Council's strategic decision to appoint an Empty Homes Officer in 2022 - an initiative that has transformed neglected properties into vibrant homes for new families, eased housing pressures, and revitalised communities across the district. To find out more about our work bringing empty homes back into use visit our [webpage](#).

Street Trading

Proposed changes to street trading in South Cambridgeshire aim to help small local businesses work in more places whilst giving local communities more of a say. The District Council has just launched [a public consultation](#) into changes that could be made to its Street Trading Policy. The consultation runs until to Monday 24 November 2025.

South Cambridgeshire's local traders in particular are being asked to share their views – although anyone is welcome to have their say.

South Cambs supports communities with more grants

Local sports clubs, a community centre and village events are set to benefit from more than £7,000 in the latest round of South Cambridgeshire District Council Community Chest grants. The funding backs grassroots initiatives which improve facilities, bring people together, promote wellbeing and deliver long-term benefits for towns and villages across the district. Almost £80,000 has been set aside for Community Chest grants in 2025-2026 and in this latest round, £7,160 is being distributed to five local organisations.

6 Free Trees

This one is familiar across the ward:

South Cambridgeshire District Council is again inviting parish and town councils to take part in its popular Six Free Trees scheme, which has already helped plant 758 trees in communities since its launch. The initiative offers each parish or town council the opportunity to claim either six small trees (whips) or one large pot-grown tree, with a choice of native species. Trees are delivered along with stakes, ties, and supports to help them establish – all town or parish councils need to do is plant and care for them.

Generally, free trees given out as part of the scheme can be planted on parish land or school grounds, and schools interested in participating are encouraged to contact their parish or town council to apply on their behalf.

The Six Free Trees Scheme has been run by South Cambridgeshire District Council since 2019, making this its fifth year in operation. As a result, some parish or town councils may find they have limited space for more trees. The District Council will therefore also consider providing free trees for other publicly accessible locations that are not on parish or town council or school land. This is subject to permission from the landowner and the District Council's approval.

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