

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

JANUARY 2020

CLLR SARAH CHEUNG JOHNSON & CLLR ALEX MALYON

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The first phase of the public consultation for Community Governance Review for Longstanton, Oakington and Northstowe is ongoing.

The review process involves consultation with the community, and we hope that residents will take the opportunity to share their views and let the Council know how they feel about the future of our communities. Residents will be able to submit views online via the link below until 15th January. Paper forms are also available. Draft recommendations based on this initial consultation will be published in March 2020 and this will be followed up by further public consultation when you can again express your views on any proposals. A number of extra dates for drop in sessions and public meetings were added and have been quite well attended.

As District Councillors we will be seeking to represent the views of the whole communities we represent and don't have any preferred outcome at this stage. If a preferred option emerges from the consultation, we will support this going forward.

The review will finish in September 2020. If any changes are proposed the Council will make something called a Reorganisation Order and then changes would come into force in May 2021.

For more information, the terms of reference for the review or to submit your views as part of the consultation go to: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/community-governance-reviews>

ANGLIAN WATER WORKS, LONGSTANTON

Anglian Water works on School Lane/Rampton Road Longstanton. We have just received the below update from Anglian Water. Unfortunately the works will not now be completed until end Jan 2020. They have said:

Reinstatement

We will soon begin our works to reinstate the roads and verges affected by our works. We will also be completing a reinstatement of the 'hump' in the School Lane area; this section will be completed in the New Year.

Some manhole covers currently have temporary covers in place and these will also be permanently reinstated in the New Year.

Mud on Rampton Road

We are very sorry for the condition the roads got into during our works, which were not helped by the wet weather periods. We did try to keep on top of this with a special sweeper on one of our vehicles but at times it wasn't able to keep up with the changing conditions.

The new sewer pipes

We have been testing the new pipes but unfortunately found that one of them isn't water tight and has failed its pressure test. We are therefore conducting a series of tests to try and locate the section in need of a repair. It is important to do this so that we don't have to come back again and complete any repair when the pipe becomes operational.

We also have two air valves to install around School Lane and Woodside and we hope to have these done this week.

The route of the pipes

We have received several questions about the route that the new pipes take. It wasn't possible to send the pipe through the surrounding fields and around the village as these are earmarked for development. Should Anglian Water ever need to access these pipes the last place they want them to be is under someone's house.

The route is also a semi straight line between the pumping station in the new development site and its destination at the Uttons Drove Water Recycling Centre. The route we have taken is therefore the quickest and shortest. If we gone in any other direction we would have most likely had to follow local roads causing even more traffic disruption and been on site for a much longer period.

As mentioned in a previous update we have laid two new pipes at the same time. This is to ensure that the new network has capacity for further development in the local area and ensure we don't have to come back in a few years and lay another pipe along the same route.

Our finish date

Due to the failure of the pressure test and various areas of reinstatement to complete we won't now be fully off site until the end of January 2020. We have completed our main construction work in the village, we just need to repair and re-test the main and complete all the areas of reinstatement.

The suspended activities on Friday 20 December and returned to site on 6 January 2020 to complete the above work.

PUMPING OUT WATER ALONG LONGSTANTON ROAD, OAKINGTON

Residents have been concerned about water being pumped out from the Northstowe site near to the road block for the Southern Access Road across Longstanton Road.

Homes England have now advised us of this:

The permitted design incorporates the roadside swale in this area being connected to the Longstanton Road Award Drain as part of the permanent works. Upon final connection; with the swales fully formed, all outlets at correct level and connecting pipes / headwalls etc. of correct size etc. this will function within agreed and controlled parameters (i.e. appropriate attenuation and at controlled rate of discharge).

This final connection has not yet been formed and is due in circa 2 to 3 weeks. What appears to have happened, due to the significant rainfall recently and the site works recommencing following the holiday season shutdown; is that surface water has accumulated in the swales (as they don't currently flow anywhere) and therefore pumping of water from these (via a chamber) was instigated by Sisk onto adjacent land; to enable construction works to recommence.

Whilst this is standard practice; I have requested that additional steps are taken to ensure that the rate of discharge for this pumping is controlled prior to the final connections being made (in circa 2 to 3 weeks).

NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY FORUM – 22ND JAN 2020

The next Northstowe Community Forum is on 22nd January 2020, at the Northstowe Community Wing. Updates will come from Pathfinder School, a Community Governance Review update, CCC History annex, Northstowe updates all phases.

GET FREE TREES!

To encourage the planting of trees and to promote the many benefits, the Council is offering every Parish in the district a voucher for £60 to cover the cost of three small trees, in exchange for an undertaking to plant the trees on parish council land.

If you would like to find out more and apply for your voucher, please visit our webpage:

<https://www.scambsgov.uk/three-free-trees>

Please note the deadline for applying for your voucher is 14th March 2020 and the garden centres will only accept the vouchers until 31st March 2020.

GRAFFITI INCIDENT – LONGSTANTON AND NORTHSTOWE

A parent asked us to provide the following statement on their behalf on the 29th November 2019. We are following up with the Police regarding their handling of this case.

“More than two weeks after this incident the suspect has still not been interviewed by the police. This evening he has been told that he may be arrested for not attending interview even though he has been given a date to meet with the police for interview.

The suspect is a vulnerable young person with learning difficulties and mental health problems. These have been exacerbated by waiting for the police to contact and interview him. The stress has caused him to consider taking his own life and has meant a stay in a psychiatric unit. He offers his sincere apologies to the community and anyone affected by his misdemeanour, this is completely out of character and would not have happened if he had been in good health and supported by the services that have failed him. He did not understand the impact that his actions would have on those living in the community.

This young person is of previous good character and unblemished record and is responsible for only a small amount of the graffiti, and yet he has been hung out to dry by the community as the only perpetrator and the police have supported this through their wording their original Facebook post.

The backlash from the social media feels like the modern equivalent of putting him in the stocks so the village can take their revenge.

No doubt there will be those of you that want to make more spiteful comments but please think about the impact that this has on the individual and their family. Again, please be aware that the perpetrator gives his sincere apologies for his part in this. He is not the only one involved and the police have acknowledged this but have made no reference to the other suspects.”

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

We send out email newsletters and have been posting regular updates on our Facebook group. Details are here:

- Monthly email newsletter - with updates on local news as well as wider district issues which will impact us all. To sign up please go to: https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/email_signup_longstanton *(Note to help us manage GDPR it is easier for us to host from the LibDems webpage, but we absolutely promise this link will NOT subscribe you to LibDem news)*
- For all the latest news & updates so far please go to: https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/longstanton_news
- For those on social media we have a very active Facebook group covering the whole ward here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/>

DISTRICT WIDE UPDATES

MODERN SLAVERY INCIDENT

We were very sad to receive this report from Cambs Police on the discovery of a modern slavery operation at Kneesworth. The link at the bottom leads on to more general information about modern slavery in Cambridgeshire and how to become better informed.

Modern slavery operation finds five men at Cambridgeshire nursery.

A nursery business is still employing vulnerable workers in "unacceptable conditions", police investigating modern day slavery have found.

Officers found five Vietnamese workers living on site during a follow-up safeguarding visit to an agricultural nursery in Kneesworth, Cambridgeshire.

Slavery is a "very true and real occurrence", a police spokeswoman said.

The spot check, on Friday, was carried out by a combined team from Cambridgeshire Police, South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA).

The five men were living in "cramped and poor conditions", with one 51-year-old claiming he arrived in the country on the back of a lorry in 2014, police said.

He was arrested on suspicion of immigration offences but later released on bail to attend an immigration centre.

Sgt Emma Hilson said: "The purpose of this visit was to check on the vulnerable people living within our community and ensure they are protected from any type of exploitation.

"While we didn't find anyone actively working at the nursery, the conditions in which the people there were living were unacceptable."

Officers found two caravans, washing and cooking facilities, as well as animals "kept in poor conditions".

"It's often a misconception that slavery is a thing of the past however, sadly, it is a very true and real occurrence," Sgt Hilson added.

"It is a hidden crime that occurs across the county, even in some of our most affluent areas. Increasing intelligence in this area is key to protecting the vulnerable."

More information here:

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/news-an.../safeguarding-kneesworth>

BROKEN OR INEFFICIENT BOILER, HEATING HELP

South Cambs District Council are offering a discretionary grant assistance to cover some or all of the cost of replacing broken or inefficient household boilers and electric storage heaters. The scheme is available to homeowners whose household income is sufficiently low or those in receipt of a qualifying benefit. The scheme is intended to prevent long term ill health therefore funding will be offered primarily to residents who are more susceptible to cold living conditions including children, older and disabled people.

Find out more at www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/home-improvement-grants or contact the Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency on hia@cambshia.org

In addition - Up to £300 is available for local individuals or families facing fuel poverty, through a Stay Well Grant

The £300 can contribute to future heating costs. For those who are homeless other costs will be considered

For more information or to apply visit: <http://cambscf.org.uk/Stay-Well.html> Cambridgeshire Community Foundation

You can also borrow one of our thermal imaging cameras to find out where your home is losing heat, to cut energy bills and help the environment

Apply to borrow one at www.scambs.gov.uk/.../the-sustainable.../thermal-imaging-camera/

ANNUAL REPORT TO TENANTS AND LEASEHOLDERS

The Annual Report to Tenants and Leaseholders 2018/19 has a wealth of information and highlights the impressive amount of work the Council did on behalf of its tenants and leaseholders in 2018/19.

The Report is also available on the Council's website:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/council-tenants/your-tenancy/annual-report-for-tenants-leaseholders/>

CAMBRIDGESHIRE REUSABLE NAPPIES

Cambridgeshire Reusable Nappies is looking for volunteers to help dispel myths about using washable nappies

Disposable nappies make up around 9% of household waste with 22 million+ nappies going to landfill every year

If you've used modern reusable nappies and would like to help raise awareness email info@camsreusablenappies.uk to get involved: <https://www.camsreusablenappies.uk/>

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

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