



LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLORS REPORT JUNE 2026

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (6TH JULY 2026)

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (13TH JULY 2026)

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (28TH JULY 2026)

CLLR SUNITA HANSRAJ & CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

Starting off with the weather just has to be done this month! Congratulations to everyone for coping with the June heatwave and especially to groups in the community who have been supporting residents who are less able to cope in the heat than they are. There has been strong community spirit reported back to us which is very good news.

Our case work across the ward has been mixed in June. A few examples of the varied nature of things we are dealing with (avoiding confidentiality of any residents) are:

Assisted Waste Collection

Supporting an Oakington resident needing the assisted waste collection service since the hot weather made uncollected bins one week a hazard! If any residents need assistance, an application can be done online here [Get help putting your bin out - Greater Cambridge Shared Waste](#), and since many residents needing this have no internet access, there is a paper-based service available from SCDC too. The contact centre number is 01954 71300 for South Cambs Contact Centre who can help with this.

High Street Grants

Moving forward with the grant funding for repairing the well at St Michaels Church, Longstanton, with the money close to being secured and transferred to the diocese. Note the grant was within the **High Street Grants** at SCDC, which you can find more about at: [scdc-ihs-policy-criteria-2025-26.pdf](#).

Overflowing public bins

Supporting health and wellbeing in Northstowe related to concerns with overflowing public bins since the different areas in Northstowe have different bin owners, for instance Greenbelt are responsible for some of them. Tom Hulme has said anyone with queries about bins in the lakes area can email him: tom.hulme@greenbelt.co.uk

Faithland in Northstowe

The announcement of the successful bid for the first parcel of Faithland in Northstowe has also been high on our agenda having been approved by Cabinet in June. This is the first of four opportunities for faith and / or community groups to secure land in Northstowe. The land was secured by the Council as part of the planning process. In future, there will be further land or floorspace within the town centre on phase 2, plus two more opportunities within phase 3. The press release about this can be found on the SCDC website: [South Cambs District Council: Council agrees proposal for Northstowe's first community faith site](#).

Northstowe Phase 3B consultation

Regarding Phase 3B of Northstowe, **Vistry has a public consultation event at the Unity Centre, The Green, Northstowe, on Tuesday 7th July (2.30pm to 7pm)** which residents across the ward may like to visit. As you may be aware, outline consent for Northstowe was granted in 2022, with delivery timeframes linked to New Homes Accelerator funding. Vistry is now beginning to develop the detailed proposals for Phase 3B and is keen to work closely with local stakeholders as the plans move forward.



The emerging proposals for Phase 3B are expected to include:

- Up to 1,000 new homes
- A local centre, including a primary school, faith and community building
- Play areas, including LAPs, LEAPs and a NEAP
- Significant public open space at the heart of the site

Vistry's ambition is to deliver a high-quality, well-connected neighbourhood that contributes positively to Northstowe and provides new homes, community facilities, and open space for existing and future residents.

Awards for the Northstowe Unity Centre

We're pleased to share that the Unity Centre in Northstowe has been recognised at the UK Property Forums EastProp Awards, winning both Best Low Carbon Building and the People's Choice Award.

SCDC New Build Team collected the awards on behalf of the Council. Delivered in partnership with TSA Riley and Kier Construction, we are delighted that the care and attention that went into the innovative, sustainable design has been recognised, alongside the focus on social value, in bringing this landmark building to life.

It has been a huge team effort, and we wish to thank all the residents and community groups across the ward who contributed to consultation as the Unity Centre was developed, and your support and feedback throughout this build project.

Some key updates from SCDC this month:

Local Government Reorganisation: Where Are We Now?

The process of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is moving forward. A decision announcement from the Government is expected in July 2026, before summer recess. If confirmed, a Structural Changes Order would follow in late 2026, with the legislation needing to pass through Parliament. This will formally establish the new unitary authority, setting out names, boundaries, electoral arrangements, and the vesting day for new councils as well as the abolition date for existing ones, which would cut current councillors' terms short by two years. Elections to a "shadow" authority are anticipated for 6 May 2027, with the shadow authority meeting and appointing its executive and interim statutory officers by 20 May 2027. The expected vesting day, when the new authority becomes fully operational and South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridgeshire County councils are wound up, is 1 April 2028.

Feedback from Bridget Smith, Leader SCDC, regarding DevCo announcement

Parish Councils are probably aware that the last government and this government have both had designs on increasing the growth of housing and jobs in Greater Cambridge far beyond what we have identified through our local plan process: 150,000 by 2050 "theirs" compared with 77,000 by 2045 "ours".

This aspiration has now taken a leap forward with the Labour Government formally announcing its intention to create a government led Development Corporation covering the whole South Cambs and Cambridge City area. This is vastly larger in geography and population than has ever been seen before anywhere in the UK. There is no doubt that this will result in loss of greenbelt land though where that might be, we cannot yet say. The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan gives a very high level of protection to all our villages and

the greenbelt but it would be naïve to say that the 'Devco' would respect this.

Currently, anyone wanting to build anything at all in Greater Cambridge has to submit a planning application to the Greater Cambridge Planning Service and the decisions are taken either by our expert planning officers or by the planning committee which is made up of elected members from both political parties that hold seat in South Cambs.

It would be a travesty if these plans damaged the Greater Cambridge Planning Service which has recently been awarded the title of Best Planning Authority in England.

If the government does not amend its plans, as they currently stand, all planning applications above 250 units will be submitted to the Devco and decided by its own planning committee which will only have 4 elected members with the majority being 'experts'. This represents a huge democratic deficit, with a Westminster minister having ultimate say.

We are talking to government to see if we can move this situation into something acceptable to our council and communities based upon the large amount of consultation we have conducted and the responses we have seen to their consultation, most of which align with our strongly held views.

As a minimum, that would mean increasing the thresholds for housing by a significant amount and getting assurance that the Devco will concentrate its resources on sorting out the infrastructure gap that is actually slowing growth of our area. This includes the shortage of water, electricity, health, education and transport links.

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

As mentioned previously, a reminder that South Cambridgeshire District Council's Zero Carbon Communities Grant is open, with Parish Councils or local community groups invited to apply. Feel free to contact us with questions or visit. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant>

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 24 July 2025.

Community groups invited to apply for new Community Pantry Grant

South Cambridgeshire groups can now apply for funding to set up community pantries, thanks to a new grant launched by the District Council. The Community Pantry Grant offers up to £400 to buy equipment and materials to get a community pantry up and running. The new grant is part of a [£449,000 package of support](#) to tackle cost-of-living challenges over a 2-year period until March 2028, which was agreed by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet at the end of 2025.

Pantries of this type are simple, community-run spaces that provide residents with free access to food and everyday essentials, helping to tackle food insecurity while also reducing food waste.

They are generally accessible, do not usually require staffing, and are maintained by the community.

The grant can be used for items such as shelving, indoor or outdoor storage, small venue adaptations, fridges or freezers, advertising, or other essential costs needed to start a pantry or expand an existing food hub to include one.

Eligible applicants include:

- Parish and Town Councils
- Constituted community groups with a bank account
- Informal groups with written support from their Parish or Town Council or District Councillor.

£5,000 has been allocated this year up to 31 March 2027, or until all funds are allocated. Applications will be assessed by Council officers. A further £5,000 will be available next year, depending on demand for the scheme. Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/community-pantry-grant to apply.

Local Validation Checklist consultation

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning has prepared a new Local Validation Checklist, providing a single checklist for both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils Council areas. It provides guidance on what supporting documents must be submitted with a planning application; some are always required, others will depend on the type of application and development proposed. We are running a 6-week consultation seeking views on the content of the new Local Validation Checklist. [Have your say by 28 July 2026](#).

Unauthorised encampment sites

We are aware of concerns relating to potential unauthorised encampment sites in recent weeks. South Cambridgeshire District Council has been granted a High Court injunction under Section 187B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against persons unknown in relation to land west of Moor Drove, Histon/Cottenham. The illegal activity took place over the late May Bank Holiday weekend and was noticed by observant residents who then reported to local councillors.

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 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.

Cllr Sunita Hansraj

Email: cldr.hansraj@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Natalie Warren-Green

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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