



LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLORS REPORT OCT 2026

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (5TH OCT 2026)

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (12 OCT 2026)

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (27TH OCT 2026)

CLLR SUNITA HANSRAJ & CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

We have lots of information to share from SCDC this month. with a lot happening at all levels of government and plenty of news that affects our villages directly. Please do get in touch if anything here raises questions or if there's something you'd like us to take up on your behalf.

BUS SERVICES! Have your say on bus franchising by 27 October

We know how important local bus services are to residents across the ward. The Mayoral Combined Authority are consulting on how bus franchising is going to be implemented in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A recent report to the CPCA's transport committee suggested that given the Mayor's decision not to keep his precept in line with inflation, we are going to have a massive gap in bus funding in the future (approximately a 35% cut in our bus services in the next ten years!), so it's really important that people respond and highlight the importance of rural bus services to our villages, and highlight to the Mayor how worried we are about his choices to not properly fund our buses. The consultation closes at 5pm on Tuesday 27 October 2026. Read the proposals and respond to the consultation here: <https://cpqa-yOurvoice.co.uk/Obus-franchising-consultation-2/>

Community safety and policing

Senior police officers briefed councillors at the Council offices on their work and partnerships. Key points:

- The police have an extra E2 million for targeted work on crime hotspots such as Cambourne and Northstowe/Surrounding Villages, but the funding is time-limited.
- Although the district has a small number of officers, a total Of 468 staff cover South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire.
- Crime is up 9.5% year on year, partly due to better reporting and a growing population. It was reported that our residents are very good at reporting crime.
- Household burglary is up 21% this year, so please do all you can to keep your home secure. Visit this link for more information: <https://wn.w. camhsvoice.uk/Burglary>
- 25% of police call-outs in South Cambridgeshire are road-related.
- The police receive on average 64 calls a day (around 24,000 a year), and many are complex and slow to resolve and 25% Of police call-outs in South Cambridgeshire are road-related. They are meeting their target of reaching emergency calls within 17 minutes in 25% of cases.

The recent spate of shop thefts in Longstanton, and break-ins in Over and Willingham were raised. Plus the car break-ins and ASB being reported in the last month. The police thank residents for the uplift in reporting which makes their job easier for actively investigating, but understandably couldn't comment on specific cases at this forum. They are discussing more coffee-with-a-cop sessions for our ward with the SCDC community team, and are able to attend PC meetings if this would be useful. So do get in touch to arrange this if you would like to meet the police.

The South Cambs Community Safety Partnership's proposed 2026-27 Operational Plan

Focuses on:

- support for those affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence
- preventing young people being drawn into exploitation Or Serious violence
- tackling antisocial behaviour hotspots
- joint work with retailers and police on shoplifting
- awareness campaigns in schools and communities
- continued work on fraud, scams and cybercrime

Targeted work is expected in Cambourne, Northstowe, Milton and Waterbeach, Histon and Impington, and Fen Ditton and Fulbourn. As you are aware, last year, the partnership has introduced Public Space Protection Orders at the Milton and Babraham Road park and Ride sites and run court experience days on knife crime for 120 Year 9 students. We are in discussion with our community safety officers and cabinet lead for environmental services, and county councillor about when the facilities will be open again at Longstanton Park & Ride, and about the possibility of having a PSPO there, although we are all aware that reporting incidents is critical to being awarded a PSPO so please do continue to encourage residents to officially report rather than complain on social media without official reporting.

Food Waste Collections

Letters are being sent to residents for wave 4 of food waste collections. In our ward this impacts Longstanton and Northstowe as Oakington & Westwick already have food waste collections. The letters being sent to residents is being submitted to you with this report.

Six Free Trees: parish councils

Once again, parish councils can claim either six small trees (whips) or one larger pot-grown native tree. Orders come with stakes, ties and biodegradable spirals, and this year also a mulch mat and an optional watering system for larger trees. Trees will be delivered earlier to help them establish over winter. Schools and other publicly accessible sites can be included via their parish council. Applications close on 31 October 2026, and details are on the District Council website.

Planning:

"Do I Need Planning Permission?" Greater Cambridge Shared Planning has launched a free online tool that asks about your project and gives tailored guidance, including whether your property is listed or in a conservation area. It's for guidance only and isn't an official decision but could be very helpful for residents who are encouraged to try it at www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/check-if-i-need-planning-permission.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The Government has asked councils to pause implementation work on LGR while it reviews earlier decisions. It is understood that some decisions might not have survived legal challenges, hence the review. Key points from recent briefings with the Minister and civil servants:

- The Government's bigger prize is devolution under its "Rewiring the State" agenda. The Minister sees unitary councils as the building blocks for it.
- Shadow elections will almost certainly not go ahead in 2027. The government is now working towards 2028 for most councils.
- The Council is working through the resource implications and will submit a compensation claim for the costs of the delay.

The whole episode is extremely frustrating for everyone involved. I'll update you as more becomes clear although we may not hear from the Government on a local update for a few months.

"Rewiring the State": devolution

The Government's devolution programme proposes significant new powers for elected mayors and strategic authorities, including:

- skills and employment support transport
- housing delivery
- parts of public service reform
- new fiscal powers, including a share of income tax revenues, greater business rate retention and the ability to introduce an Overnight Visitor Levy

Details depend on forthcoming Budget and Spending Review announcements. But the direction is a substantial shift of influence, funding and decision-making from Whitehall to mayoral institutions, which raises important questions about how strategic authorities and local councils will work together.

Support for residents facing hardship

SCDC have agreed to allocate E 180,000 from the new Crisis and Resilience Fund, a national scheme run through the DWP and held locally by the County Council. It will pay for:

- baby boxes for newborns in low-income households
- emergency supermarket vouchers
- travel support for healthcare, work, training and essential services
- debt reduction schemes linked to financial advice
- specialist disability benefit advice appointments
- energy prepayment meter vouchers to help prevent disconnection this winter a savings incentive scheme linked to the Government's Help to Save programme

Pension Credit:

156 letters have gone to South Cambridgeshire residents identified as eligible for Pension Credit but not claiming it, as part of a countywide campaign contacting over 700 households. If you know any residents who might be missing out, please encourage them to check and claim.

An insight into overall SCDEC funding for communities

During 2025-26, more than E1.5 million reached community groups, businesses and organisations across South Cambridgeshire. This included 195 grants worth E675,371 from Council-funded schemes, up from 158 grants worth E516,770 the year before. The largest included:

- E181,650 in Service Support Grants
- E161,291 through the Zero Carbon Communities scheme
- E123,374 for Mobile Warden Scheme grants supporting Older and vulnerable residents; and
- over E1 through the Allotment Improvement Grant

A further E620,042 of partner-funded grants, including the Rural England Prosperity Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund, supported high street improvements, community facilities and business growth. Over 205,000 more commissioned services such as Community Hubs, healthy weight programmes, falls prevention and employment support

Council transformation

Cabinet in September received the final report on the five-year Transformation Programme, which has delivered around E11.9 million in efficiencies (over E8.2 million benefiting the District Council directly, the rest shared with Cambridge City Council through joint services). Changes include a redesigned website, more than 200 online forms (over 48,000 submitted in the last nine months), the SAM AI assistant, and a single "Golden Number" for contacting the Council. Residents can still phone or visit the Contact Centre at South Cambs Hall in Cambourne. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning is now nationally recognised for its use of technology and service performance.

Empty homes

The Government has announced reforms to Empty Dwelling Management Orders, which let councils take over management of long-term empty homes for up to seven years while ownership stays with the owner. The qualifying period drops from two years to six months, and some evidential requirements (such as proof of anti-social behaviour) are removed, making it easier for councils to apply.

Registration for private rented homes

Under the Renters' Rights Act 2025, landlords of assured or regulated tenancies must register themselves and each rented property on a new national service. In the East of England, registration opens on 15 January 2027 and the deadline is 14 April 2027. The annual fee is E65 per property. Landlords will need to provide property and rent details, along with relevant gas, electrical and energy performance information. The register will help councils identify and tackle poor practice. Landlords who do not register risk a fine.

Fly-tipping at recycling banks

The District Council has fined 24 people for fly-tipping at the recycling bank site in the Cambourne Morrisons car park, where items including mattresses, TVs, furniture and child seats were dumped. The banks have since

been removed. Enforcement officers are now visiting charity and recycling bank sites across the district to advise users and work with operators. Please let residents know that if a bank is full, please take your items home or use a Household Recycling Centre.

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.

Cllr Sunita Hansraj

Email: cllr.hansraj@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Natalie Warren-Green

Email: cllr.warren-green@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