



LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLORS REPORT SEPT 2026

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (SEPT 2026)

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (14 SEPT 2026)

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (22 SEPT 2026)

CLLR SUNITA HANSRAJ & CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

We hope that many of you managed to have an August break, although we have seen some of you out in the community at events and meetings across the ward during the hot summer weeks and realise it's remained busy this month despite the heat! It was a pleasure to come along to the Choir in the Churchyard event in Oakington, the Great Gatsby Play in Longstanton, and to take part in the launch of the Pump Track and to be volunteering at Northstowe Running Festival this summer.

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

ASB

There has been a rise in ASB across the ward during the school holidays including issues with cherry knocking, verbal abuse, motorbikes on bridleways and pathways, concerns at the coop, for instance. This has been worrying residents. We have been working with the community team at SCDC to discover the source of the issues, speak to impacted residents, and get feedback from yourselves in the Town and Parish Councils about combating this trend. The MP is also informed and supporting us from a national level to investigate solutions to ASB. The immediate actions being rolled out by the community team are: Organising a meeting with the different housing association providers, including SCDC housing and Community Safety colleagues, in early September to identify some of the families who need support with their family care and activities to better occupy them and to discuss the identified issues with ASB and how to resolve them; arranging with the Police, PS Chris Daniels, September 6-7pm Coffee with a Cop sessions for residents to come and speak to the Police about their experiences (information and posters about the dates and locations for this tbc). The police are also looking at more patrols in the areas being reported as hotspots at the times of day/evening residents are reporting issues arising.

We realise that you continue to remind residents to report issues to the police. Here is the link to how to report antisocial behaviour again so that we can continue this messaging and continue to have concerns reported from Northstowe, Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick. The more reports the police and SCDC receive the more evidence we have available to work with them to combat crime, and the more evidence we have for our housing and community safety colleagues to support families with issues that may be the source of trouble. [How to report antisocial behaviour: Making your report - GOV.UK](#)

High Street Grants

Finalising grant funding for repairing the well at St Michaels Church, Longstanton, with the money now secured and ready to be 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](#).

You're likely to be familiar with other grants available to your communities which include:

- Mobile wardens scheme
- Disabled adaptations grant
- Long term health conditions grant
- Zero carbon communities grant
- Community chest grants

Details of these can be found on the SCDC website. Cllr Sunita is very familiar with grants governance and process having served on the grants committee and is happy to answer questions you may have about these.

Overflowing public bins

The weather remained hot, and we continued to support 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

Northstowe Phase 3B consultation

We have been working with residents to find out the plans for Vistry to complete Phase 1 of Northstowe before Phase 3b happens. There are plans in place for completion of the roads and our county councillor, Luis, is getting the exact dates for this so that residents have clarity.

Magpas Air Ambulance CRP & DeFib Training – Northstowe Unity Centre

Further to conversations with SCDC community team, Northstowe Community Hub and MagPas which she is a keen supporter of, Sunita is pleased that CRP and Defib training will be happening at the Unity Centre on 10 September 2026, from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Magpas are keen to offer training to communities all over the region and if this would be useful in Oakington & Westwick or Longstanton please let Sunita know.

Some key updates from SCDC this month:

Northstowe

The new town of Northstowe is to get its first shop thanks to Morrisons. The Council purchased a 190 square-metre retail unit from Keepmoat Homes as part of a wider development that also includes Council apartments for affordable rent on phase two of Northstowe.

The store will be located on the ground floor with six affordable flats for Council rent above. Those six flats are the final of 60 new Council homes which the District Council is providing at Northstowe in partnership with Keepmoat Homes.

Climate Change

Having experienced the hottest summer on record it is some consolation that South Cambridgeshire District Council has achieved the target it set itself back in 2018 of reducing its in-house carbon emissions by 45% by this year.

A major upgrade to the energy performance of the Council's main building, South Cambs Hall, as well as switching to more low-carbon vehicles, helped the Council move towards its long-term climate goals.

The Council's carbon emissions equalled 1,183 tonnes in 2025/26, compared with 1,929 in 2018/19 – a 39% gross reduction.

Once renewable electricity purchased by the Council and electricity exported are factored into the equation, emissions fall to 1,049 tonnes - representing a 45.3% net reduction compared with 2018/19.

In 2018, the District Council had no electric or low carbon vehicles in its fleet. In 2026 it has four electric bin lorries with five more expected to be delivered by autumn. There are three electric vans, one electric road sweeper and 38 vehicles within the fleet (which services both Cambridge City and South

Cambridgeshire) running on HVO fuel - a renewable diesel-alternative, often made from waste vegetable and cooking oils offering up to 90% lower net CO₂ emissions compared to conventional diesel. Planning Examples of work carried out to reduce emissions across the district include:

- Planning policies that support lower-carbon development and protect nature.
- Reducing waste and encouraging recycling.
- Transitioning Council vehicles to lower-carbon fuels and electric alternatives.
- Improving the energy efficiency of council buildings and homes.
- Helping local businesses reduce their environmental impact.
- Encouraging more sustainable approaches to food and agriculture.
- Providing training and information to help communities take climate action.
- Supporting biodiversity, tree planting and wider nature recovery projects.

Planning

The government has introduced a new suite of national planning powers which will affect all of us. Their aim is to make development policies more consistent nationwide – replacing “local” planning requirements with national policies. This will reduce the ability of local councils to tailor planning policies to their own area.

The biggest change is that there will be a ‘Stronger Presumption in Favour of (sustainable) Development’ which will make it much harder to reject planning applications for any reasons other than the most compelling. The announcement says - development within settlements (towns and villages) “ should be approved, unless the benefits of doing so would be substantially outweighed by any adverse effects. Outside of settlements, a more limited range of development forms still applies but there is now more active support for agricultural and farm diversification, sport and recreation.

The Government has also expanded its ‘ default yes’ approach for appropriate forms of development within reasonable walking distance of “well-connected” railway and tram stations, including where that development lies in the green belt. Greater Cambridge and all of the railway stations in Greater Cambridge fall into this definition.

There will be greater support for intensification in urban areas and more scope for development within gardens. There is also greater support focused on increasing the floorspace for existing homes – including by extending upwards.

National policies protecting community facilities have been strengthened to avoid unnecessary loss of facilities such as public houses. One good thing is that local authorities will be able to set lower local water consumption requirements - we were prevented from doing so on our current local plan by the government back in 2018. Disappointingly, we are now prevented from setting requirements above the national standard of 10% Bio Diversity Gain unless it is justified on a specific site. This is a very retrograde step.

Importantly, substantial weight will be given to the benefits of improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings (solar panels, heat pumps etc) where not already permitted development and we hope this includes listed buildings and those in conservation areas.

More on Planning

It is very exciting that 2 schemes which the Greater Cambridge Planning Service has been supporting have been nominated for the Stirling Prize

New Powers for Mayors

It is a great concern that government has granted powers to Mayors that allows them to overturn planning permissions or indeed to approve large applications (over 150 homes) which councils are minded to reject. On average councils approve well over 90% of planning applications and those they reject they reject for very good reasons. It could be that they are on flood plains, would do huge environmental damage, or are just poor quality housing which we don’t think would be healthy for people to live in. Mayors are not planners and planning is highly complex. There is a serious risk that this will result in poor development or will even slow the rate of housing delivery down.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

The next Greater Cambridge Local Plan, prepared jointly by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, is soon moving into its final stage of public consultation, running from 3rd August to 25th September.

The Plan will shape how Greater Cambridge grows over the next 20 years, setting out where new homes, jobs and infrastructure should be located, and includes policies on climate change, biodiversity, wellbeing and sustainable transport. It confirms a need for more than 50,000 new homes across the area between 2024 and 2045, of which around 37,000 are already accounted for through existing permissions and current Local Plan allocations.

The latest version follows extensive earlier engagement, including a consultation which ran from December 2025 into January 2026 and drew more than 1,280 respondents and over 8,400 comments. Residents, businesses, landowners and organisations wishing to comment should do so before the consultation closes on 25th September 2026.

New National Forest

Not on our doorstep in the ward, although environmentalists will be interested to know that, the Government has approved the creation of a new national forest as part of the Oxford Cambridge Growth corridor. This is being coordinated by the Forest of Marston Vale Group who have been very successful in recent years in creating new woodland in Bedfordshire.

Free To Feed Scheme

South Cambridgeshire District Council, working alongside NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Infant Feeding Team and local partners, is celebrating the ongoing success of the **#FreeToFeed** campaign, which helps create welcoming spaces for families across the district.

Since launching in 2022, the campaign has encouraged 174 businesses, community venues and public organisations to sign the **FreeToFeed** pledge demonstrating their support for families who breastfeed and / or express milk while out and about.

The initiative aims to help families feel confident feeding their babies whenever and wherever they need to, while increasing understanding among businesses, staff and the wider public. Every venue signed up to the campaign agrees to adopt a breastfeeding welcome policy and ensure staff understand how to support families in a positive and inclusive way.

Local businesses that have signed the pledge often report positive experiences, helping them demonstrate their commitment to being family-friendly while welcoming a broader customer base.

South Cambridgeshire District Council is encouraging any businesses, cafés, community venues, leisure facilities or organisations that have not yet joined the campaign to sign the pledge and become officially FreeToFeed friendly. For more information and how to get involved, visit the District Council [website](#) or email Duty.Communities@scambs.gov.uk

Long Term Fitness Grants

Community groups, voluntary organisations, specialist providers and small fitness businesses across South Cambridgeshire are being encouraged to apply for a grant aimed at helping adults with long-term health conditions remain physically active. The [Long-Term Health Condition Grant](#), from the District Council, offers funding of up to £2,000 per applicant to support the development and delivery of activities and programmes designed specifically for people living with long-term health conditions.

It is the fourth year that the grant has been running. Applications are now open and will close at 5pm on Friday 25 September 2026. Successful applicants will be notified on 9 November 2026.

The funding can be used for a range of purposes, including venue hire, equipment purchase, training courses and accessibility requirements. Projects can be delivered within a single village or across multiple communities within the district.

The grant has two key objectives:

- Supporting people with a wide range of long-term health conditions to access activities that help them

stay active.

- Promoting a broader range of inclusive physical activity opportunities across South Cambridgeshire.

Our Member of Parliament

Ian held a pop up surgery in the Tap & Social in August. This was one of a few surgeires in the summer. Residents from across the ward came to see him. For those who didn't make it please note that his email address is Ian.Sollom.MP@parliament.uk Ian is active across the constituency and will continue to hold regular surgeries which we will endeavour to keep you informed of for residents. 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

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.

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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