

LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLOR REPORT JANUARY 2026

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (5TH JAN 2026)

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (12TH JAN 2026)

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (27TH JAN 2026)

CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a restful festive season and I look forward to continuing to work with you in 2026.

This month a few updates from SCDC to start the year.

SCDC pledges £900,000 to local organisations through 3-year Service Support Grant funding

SCDC has just committed Service Support Grant funding of £300,000 a year to local groups to underpin the delivery of services to support people with their mental health, independent living, advice services, and to help residents through the cost-of-living crisis. SCDC's Service Support Grant funding has almost doubled compared to the previous budget, made possible by prudent management of the council's finances and a recognition of the acute need for these services.

Grant recipients include

- Over Day Centre – £30,000 per year to provide transport and hospital discharge support service for older residents.
- Cambridge and District Citizens Advice – £105,000 per year to provide free, confidential advice services to residents.
- Disability Huntingdonshire – £12,998 per year to support people with disabilities to live independently.
- Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre – £10,000 per year to deliver specialist support for survivors of sexual violence.
- Support Cambridgeshire (CCVS) – £20,000 per year to strengthen the voluntary and community sector in the district.
- Hope Against Poverty CIC – £14,400 per year to provide a Wellbeing Programme for people experiencing anxiety, bereavement, or social isolation.

Others receiving funds which I know from my case work will be of interest in our ward include:

For Young People: Blue Smile children's mental health charity; Cambridge Acorn Project supporting children who have experienced trauma; Home-Start home-visiting services; Ormiston Families helping families facing adversity; Turtle Dove to improve mental health, wellbeing, and employment outcomes for young women.

For Older Residents: Care Network Cambridgeshire to help continue and expand support for Community Car Schemes; Sew Positive using sewing to help address mental health challenges, social isolation, or economic inequality; The Voluntary Network helping older residents maintain independence.

For all ages: CamSight helping people of all ages with low vision and blindness; Reach Community Projects supporting families facing poverty as well preventing others from falling into it.

More information, including the full list of grant recipients can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/exbkw6eu>

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Consultation

The government has now confirmed that the public consultation on LGR for our area will start in early February, and last for seven weeks. There will be statutory consultees (yet to be confirmed), and the general public will be invited to respond. I will include a link to this in a future report.

Local Authority Elections May 2026

As a consequence of the Local Government Reorganisation, just before Christmas the government wrote to all local authorities about next May's elections. Because of the short time between the 2026 elections and those for shadow Unitary Councils planned for 2027 they have invited local authorities in England to request the cancellation of their May 2026 elections. This has divided opinion, with some people thinking that a postponement would be undemocratic and, at the other end of the spectrum, there are concerns that the voting public might be turned off by having two local elections within 12 months of each other; a real concern since only around 30% of the electorate turns out for local elections at the best of times. This should be resolved quickly in the coming weeks. I will keep you informed about whether or not an election will be happening here.

Postal Voters

Regardless of whether there is an election in May, for elections in general, if residents previously had a postal vote and wish to continue to have one, they should **reapply now** if they have not already done so. www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote . If you have any questions or wish to cancel your postal vote, please email elections@scambs.gov.uk

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – new planning reforms

The government has launched a consultation on its proposals for reform of the NPPF and will run until March. The consultation can be found [here](#). The councils' planners will be digesting the proposals and will respond in the new year. I will report these comments to you when I can.

Food collections update

Food Waste Collections, as mentioned in my December report, are due to commence for some areas in South Cambs from 26th January. Wave 1 does not include our ward. We will introduce Food Waste Collections here later this year as we will be introducing the service in phases throughout 2026. **We will write to residents in advance with specific information, including the start date.** The collection dates will also show on your [bin collection calendar](#).

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