

## LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLOR REPORT MARCH 2026

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (2<sup>ND</sup> MAR 2026)

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (9<sup>TH</sup> MAR 2026)

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (31<sup>ST</sup> MAR 2026)

### CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

February has flown by and been a very positive month for my casework on environmental protection and combating anti-social behaviour. In a meeting I attended with the OAG Flood Group reassurance was given by the SCDC planning leads that as Northstowe grows the plans for mitigating any flood risks in Oakington are high on the agenda. I have also prompted the Environment team at SCDC to support Longstanton PC on their consideration of biodiversity plans for their ponds, and will follow up on this in March. I also continue to work on supporting the need for repair of the Heritage Well at St Michaels Church in Longstanton and would like to thank all the groups involved in this for their tenacity. I am hopeful that we will be able to find a source of funding and I will continue to work on this. In Northstowe, the February meeting of the Northstowe Travel Plan Steering Group was the most informative yet demonstrating a balance in discussion about possibilities for active travel and considerations around public transport, keeping the requirement for better transport links and services firmly on the local agenda.

As Cabinet member I have been working with councillors across the City and South Cambs on issues with hotspots for ASB. Having in 2025 achieved a Public Service Protection Order (PSPO) for Milton Park and Ride (P&R), in February we have moved to consultation about the need for a PSPO for Babraham Road P&R. The news release on this can be found here and a [link to consult](#). I would like to encourage residents across our ward who use this P&R to consult, and also locally, to continue to report ASB as it's essential to have reports of disturbance in order for me to work with officers at SCDC on assessments leading to consultation and action. Please do use [this link](#) to report any disturbances.

#### Here are some key updates from SCDC this month:

##### **Local Government Reorganisation - consultation reminder**

Until Thursday 26 March, the government is consulting on four different options for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which have been developed by different councils across the region. I cannot overstate how important this issue is and I encourage you to have your say either via the [government's consultation portal online](#) or SCDC's own [website](#). Cambridge City, East Cambs and South Cambs District Councils are all in favour of option B. The Government will make a final decision on which local government structures are put into place this summer with the new unitary councils operating in a shadow capacity from May 2027 and full implementation expected in April 2028. There are many reasons to support option B, especially since there are already a number of service areas that SCDC shares with Cambridge City Council, such as waste and planning, which will ensure that the changes brought about by the LGR are as seamless as they can possibly be.

##### **Greater Cambridge Local Plan update**

The recent consultation on the [Greater Cambridge Local Plan](#) generated more than 4,500 comments. The Local Plan is for the region's future - ensuring new homes, jobs and supporting facilities can come forwards sustainably while protecting the region's environment, character and quality of life. A huge amount of effort has already gone into the Local Plan which incorporates most, if not all, of the government's ambitions for growth. It will take some time to digest the comments received from the consultation, but this marks another important step in the life of the next Local Plan. Bear all this in mind when you read the next item.

##### **Do we need a DevCo?**

Yet another consultation and another very important one. As part of its plans for growth and development in Greater Cambridgeshire, the government is proposing a development corporation (DevCo), establishing a centrally led urban development corporation in Greater Cambridge which is likely to be operating for 25 years or more. The website and

consultation link can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yfsuu3zg>. I hope you will look at the website and have your say. In my opinion and that of most my councillor colleagues, a DevCo should concentrate on fixing the strategic infrastructure problems (e.g. water supply, waste-water treatment, transport networks) that we have in our district. No doubt the DevCo will be tasked with doing this but, as you will see on the website, the government also lists “powers related to planning” as part of the remit. It is therefore very possible that the responsibility for planning in Greater Cambridge will be removed from the local authority, its elected members and an award-winning planning authority and vested with the (unelected) DevCo and its government masters. It could mean local people lose control over the scale and pace of development and its consequences. I urge you to read the government’s plans and engage with the consultation.

### Full Council meeting: budgets and business plans

SCDC’s full council met recently and approved its business plan and budget for the coming financial year. SCDC is one of the best run councils in the country and is often held up as an exemplar. It continues to deliver high quality services in the face of sustained cuts by central government, including recent reductions to the amount of Business Rates that local authorities can retain. A £5.24 per year increase in Council Tax for the average Band D home was agreed, which is a below-inflation rise. It means the average Band D charge for South Cambridgeshire District Council will be £180.64 per year from 1 April. Even with this increase, the Council will remain one of the lowest charging district councils in the country (and lower than the precept of some parish councils)!

I will cover the council’s business plan in my annual report to the parish.

### Mobile Warden schemes

SCDC has pledged ongoing funding for Community/Mobile Warden Schemes, which provide crucial support for older, disabled and vulnerable residents - ensuring they can live safely and independently in their own homes. The schemes form part of the Council’s work to promote healthy and supported communities.

### Postal Voters

Gentle reminder that we have District Council Elections on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026. 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](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote) . If you have any questions or wish to cancel your postal vote, please email [elections@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:elections@scambs.gov.uk)

### Our Member of Parliament

[Ian.Sollom.MP@parliament.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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