

## **LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLOR REPORT FEBRUARY 2025**

**LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL ( 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2025)**

**OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025)**

**NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025)**

**CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN**

### **Local Government Organisation - Devolution White Paper**

Discussion and activity related to considering options for unitary authorities continue with no decisions made yet. There will be an extraordinary full council meeting at SCDC in March to consider initial proposals for the creation of unitary authorities to be submitted at the end of March and final business case is still expected to be required in the Autumn. I will continue to keep you informed of SCDC activity related to this.

### **Safeguarding**

SCDC Councillors received a safeguarding briefing in February in which it was made clear that it is important to remember that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that we all have a role to play in safeguarding individuals and communities. Attached to this PC report are the following that I think will also be useful to Parish Councillors too:

- Safeguarding Awareness poster
- How to report Concerns poster

Please do contact me with any safeguarding concerns you need to raise or feel free to use the contact information in the posters.

### **Update from Cambridgeshire County Council on Household Support Fund**

All SCDC councillors are being asked to support the County Council to share information about the Household Support Fund Scheme which is running until end of March. Thousands of households can claim cost of living support potentially worth hundreds of pounds. Over the next few weeks, Cambridgeshire County Council are raising awareness to those who may be eligible for this support but have either never claimed, or have not put in an application this round. PCs can also help share Cambridgeshire County Council's social media posts over the next few weeks – all the graphics will be titled "Are you struggling to pay for food or bills?"

An SCDC approved message by service to accompany these: Are you experiencing financial hardship? There's still time to sign up to receive financial support from the Household Support Fund before 31 March 2025. Find out whether you're eligible here:

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-withthe-cost-of-living/household-support-fund](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-withthe-cost-of-living/household-support-fund)

### **Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) Survey**

SCDC has appointed MEL Research to carry out a Tenant Satisfaction Measures Survey to all our council tenants. Letters have been sent to all our tenants asking them to either complete the paper

survey or on-line, this will be followed up with reminders. Attached is a copy of the letter and survey for your information. If asked, this is a genuine survey with set questions that every housing provider is required to undertake as part of the new Social Housing Regulations. For further information, please contact [Julie.fletcher@scambbs.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.fletcher@scambbs.gov.uk)

### **Update from East West Rail**

The southern route continues to be the route to be rolled out. This will not directly impact any of the Parishes in Longstanton Ward. However, for awareness, I want to share those that will be impacted:

- Caldecote Parish Council
- Comberton Parish Council
- Great Eversden Parish Council
- Great Shelford Parish Council
- Hardwick Parish Council
- Haslingfield Parish Council
- Knapwell Parish Council
- Little Eversden Parish Council
- Little Shelford Parish Council
- Papworth Everard Parish Council
- Boxworth Parish Council
- Great Shelford Parish Council.

### **Additional funding announced for homelessness services**

On 25 February, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) announced an additional £30 million of government funding for homelessness services. Funding is targeted at 295 areas that are facing the highest risks of homelessness through housing costs and rent arrears. The funding will be specifically given to councils to step in early and keep people in their homes before eviction notices are served, or support people off the streets into accommodation. It brings the total Winter Pressures Funding for homelessness and rough sleeping to £60 million this year. Last year, the government launched an emergency £10 million package for rough sleepers, with a further £20 million in January. A full breakdown of funding allocations for each council is available at [Rough sleeping winter pressures 2024-25 funding allocations - GOV.UK](#).

### **Land use in England consultation**

The government has launched a consultation on a new strategic approach to managing land use in England, to give decision makers the data they need to protect agricultural land and increase Britain's food security. The consultation explores the land use changes implied by commitments to restore nature, support food production, improve climate resilience and deliver new housing and infrastructure. It seeks views on the type and scale of land use changes that might be needed, as well as the actions government could take to support this. The consultation closes on 25 April.

Speech: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/environment-secretary-announces-land-use-framework> Press release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-national-conversation-on-land-use>

### **Homes for Ukraine scheme: Children being sponsored by a parent or legal guardian**

On 31 January, MHCLG updated the guidance for councils on the sponsorship eligibility criteria under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, to enable parents or legal guardians to sponsor their children to join them in the UK. For more information Homes for Ukraine Liaison Team can be contacted by email at [HFULiaison@Scambbs.gov.uk](mailto:HFULiaison@Scambbs.gov.uk) or by phone at 01954 713411.

## Our Member of Parliament

[Ian.Sollom.MP@parliament.uk](mailto:Ian.Sollom.MP@parliament.uk) Ian is already active across the constituency, held a surgery in January in Northstowe, and visited Willingham Medical Practice with me and Cllr Firouz Thompson in February to discuss concerns and potential solutions to health service availability for Northstowe. 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.

<p><b>County Council</b></p> <p>Responsibilities: Education, Transport, Highways, Heritage, Social care, Libraries, Trading standards, - Waste management, Maintaining their estate.</p> <p>Some of these services are shared between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council but any concerns should be directed to the county council.</p>
<p><b>District Council</b></p> <p>Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning.</p>
<p><b>Parish/ Town Council</b></p> <p>Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Open spaces, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters.</p>
<p><b>Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)</b></p> <p>'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.'</p> <p>Partnership between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, University of Cambridge.</p>
<p><b>The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor</b></p> <p>'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.'</p> <p>What our mayor does – Business support, skills, housing, transport, environment, international, digital connectivity, resilience, research, and strategy. New homes.</p>
<p><b>Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge and Peterborough</b></p> <p>To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.</p>
<p><b>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority</b></p> <p>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.</p>

## 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@scambbs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.warrengreen@scambbs.gov.uk)

For those on social media we have a highly active Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/> - Longstanton, Oakington and Northstowe