

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

### **LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (6<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2025)**

### **OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (13<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2025)**

### **NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (28<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2025)**

#### **CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN**

#### **My Local Activity Highlights**

September has been a busy and productive month in the ward. Some highlights of the work I've been doing include:

- Chairing the Northstowe Forum and following up on questions raised by residents in person and online to ensure thorough responses are received
- Attending the first Northstowe Arts Show which was a testament to fabulous community work and talent
- Visiting the Cambs25 stakeholder consultation session in Longstanton to understand what the proposal they will be bringing to planning is likely to look like and gather thoughts on any potential concerns arising
- Confirming with Planning that the next LEGG meeting about groundwater will take place in October and we ought to receive some actionable insight on this from the survey
- Following up with SCDC planning on the situation with Wilson's Way development and pushing for a date for the next meeting on this which appears to be going into calendars for mid October
- Joining Andrew Dennis with officers from the District and County Councils, as well as from the Environment Agency for a meeting at Beck Brook, Oakington, to discuss water, flooding and the thinking that needs to be done ahead of Northstowe Phase3.

Amongst my case work (largely confidential as you are aware), I have also had concerns raised with me about the rise in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) across the ward and I would like to discuss this at each respective monthly meeting (Longstanton, Oakington, Northstowe) to fully understand the degree of concern for councils in the ward as some residents appear to have new worries. I will be asking Clerks if it is possible to cover this in my slot on agendas.

#### **SCDC Update**

Please note, there are a few consultations included this month for residents to be aware of in this section.

#### **Update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**

The LGR is the government's plan to reorganise local authorities into unitary bodies which will replace the current district, county and city councils. The changes will mean that residents will get all of their council services – for example, bin collections, housing support, roads maintenance or social care – through one organisation.

The seven councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been working collaboratively since December 2024 to identify viable options for the new unitary authorities, and the results of a countywide engagement survey has just been published. The feedback from this survey will help to inform how councils are to be structured from April 2028, when the Government's requirement for LGR is due to take effect.

The survey revealed a strong appetite for reorganisation if it results in improved services (84% of responses). Respondents were clear that reorganisation must safeguard rural representation and identity as well as deliver tangible benefits, such as investing in services and being quicker to respond. They said that the unitary councils' top three priorities should be having local councillors who understand their area, simplifying access to services, and increasing the transparency and accountability of local government decision-making.

Residents highlighted several strengths and weaknesses in the current system and highlighted several areas for improvement. 61% said councillors knew their local area well, and 55% said that councils perform well when dealing with online transactions. Just over half said councils did not perform well in relation to being transparent and accountable and 46% said councils did not perform well in terms of reducing the costs of delivering services. The 'one stop shop' unitary council model was supported in principle, but many were concerned about maintaining local knowledge.

The business cases now being developed by the councils must be submitted by the Government's deadline of 28 November. The Government will then consult further before it ultimately makes a final decision on which arrangements will be put into place.

To read the survey summary reports, visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/about-your-council/local-government-reorganisation/joint-engagement-with-other-local-councils-and-three-options>

In the meantime, some of the seven councils are conducting further engagement work on their preferred option, such as SCDC's preference for a Greater Cambridge Unitary. SCDC's case and a link to its survey can be found here: <https://engage.scambs.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/future-councils>

### **Consultation on proposed changes to Council Tax support**

Each year SCDC considers whether or not it should change the Council Tax Support scheme for working age applicants in the district. The council has put together a number of proposals on which it would welcome the input of residents and other stakeholders, and a public consultation has just been launched to do this. The changes (which would come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026) aim to streamline administration, improve efficiency and align with other local authorities to prepare for future changes to local government.

In brief, the proposed changes are to:

- Change the levels of discount available and change the income levels used to determine the level of support awarded to simplify the scheme
- Extend the period which an application for support can be backdated
- Make changes to the level of non-dependant deductions
- Align the amounts allowed in relation to both Carer's premium and Disability Premium
- Use the Universal Credit award notification received from the Department for Work and Pensions as both application and award date for Council Tax Support

A fuller explanation and link to the consultation can be found here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-the-local-council-tax-support-scheme>

A finalised scheme based on the outcomes of the consultation will be presented to a Full Council meeting in February – when Councillors will decide whether to adopt it.

### **Local Climate Action Conference**

I am due to open and attend SCDC's third annual Local Climate Action Conference on Friday 17 October 2025 from 12pm to 5pm at Storey's Field Centre, Eddington. This event is open to parish councils, community groups, charities and *anyone* interested in tackling climate change and enhancing biodiversity. There will also be an opportunity to input into the upcoming Climate and Nature strategy consultation and learn about different climate-friendly initiatives around the district. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. If you wish to attend, please enrol via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/DKWNNDkxfF>

## **Climate and Nature Consultation: Help shape climate and nature work in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire**

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council have teamed up to invite people to help shape the councils' approaches to climate and nature work in the coming years. The councils have set out transformative visions for a region where nature thrives, the air and rivers are clean, communities are resilient to the changing climate, and future generations can flourish. They are developing new strategies to take this work forwards and want local people and organisations to have their say.

Take the survey here: [South Cambridgeshire District Council](#) – open until 5 November. The responses will all be analysed together and made available to both councils.

## **Planning Consultation: The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, on behalf of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, are re-consulting on the Draft Greater Cambridge Planning Obligations SPD.**

The SPD provides detailed guidance on how planning obligations, also known as section 106 contributions, will be used to mitigate the impacts of new developments across Greater Cambridge. These financial contributions from developers go towards infrastructure that mitigates the impact of new development for homes or businesses. Examples include new schools and roads, upgrading playgrounds, or providing additional waste collection services. The draft SPD sets out our proposed approach and clarifies this process for both developers and residents, ultimately aiming to reduce delays in securing necessary infrastructure.

A draft version of the SPD was previously consulted on between November 2024 and January 2025. The results of the consultation were taken to South Cambridgeshire District Council Cabinet meeting and the Cambridge City Council Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee meeting in March 2025. It was agreed at both meetings that subject to the draft Planning Obligations SPD providing additional evidence and making necessary revisions, another round of public consultation could take place in Summer 2025.

Following on from the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Cabinet meeting and Cambridge City Council (CCC) Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee meeting that were held in March 2025, the Councils processed all 198 representations received during the first consultation and have made changes to the SPD.

**Public consultation on the Draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document is open until 5pm on Friday 17 October 2025.** We encourage all of our communities, stakeholders, statutory consultees, and anyone with an interest to respond.

Please visit [www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/supplementary-planning-documents/](http://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/supplementary-planning-documents/) to view the documents and find out how to comment.

Paper copies of the documents can also be viewed at the Customer Service desks at Mandela House, Cambridge and at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne. There will also be copies at the Central Library, Cambridge and viewing materials available at our in-person events. Please refer to the attached Public Notice for more information.

The Councils will be holding in-person and online consultation events during the consultation period. These events are an opportunity to connect with Planning Officers, share your thoughts, and find out more about the Supplementary Planning Documents out for consultation. Dates of these events will be published on our website shortly.

### **Comments can be made and submitted as part of the consultation:**

- Online on our consultation system:  
<https://oc2.greatercambridgeplanning.org/document/1324>
- By email at [localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org](mailto:localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org)
- By post: Planning Policy, Cambridge City Council, PO Box 700, Cambridge, CB1 0JH
- Or by requesting a form to complete by emailing us at [localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org](mailto:localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org) or calling us at call 01223 457000 or 01954 713000.

If you have difficulty commenting online, please contact the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Policy Team using the contact details above.

The feedback gathered during the consultation will play a crucial role in shaping the final version of the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document. The engagement allows for members of the public to play an active role in shaping the future of Greater Cambridge.

All comments received during the consultation period will be published. As part of this consultation, you will be able to generate instant AI summaries of your comments when making comments on our online consultation system. This is optional and is part of testing ahead of potentially using this instant summarisation function for the draft local plan consultation which will take place in the autumn.

There is more information in the privacy statement - [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning - Privacy](#), and if you have any questions you can email [localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org](mailto:localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org). Following the conclusion of the consultation all comments received will be summarised using the AI tool, will be reviewed and then published. Planning Officers will also review the original comments in full, following usual procedures. To find out more about our AI tool please visit our website: [Development of AI for Public Engagement and Consultations](#).

### Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme

A total of 14 community projects have been awarded funding through the latest round of our Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme, totalling over £161,000. These initiatives - ranging from bike refurbishment and repair cafés to solar panel installations and food waste campaign - demonstrate the power of local action in tackling climate change. Now in its seventh year, the scheme has supported over 80 projects with more than £650,000 in funding since 2019, helping parish councils and community groups to reduce carbon emissions and engage residents in building a greener future. Find out more about this years successful bids [here](#).

### 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