

**LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLOR REPORT APRIL 2024**

**LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024)**

**OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024)**

**NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024)**

**CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN**

### **SCDC Financial Accounts 2022/23**

SCDC's accounts for 2022/23 have just been published, which brings the council up to date. As for the auditing of accounts, the government has introduced transitional arrangements for all councils' outstanding audits, and their final decision on the outstanding SCDC accounts for 2021/22 and 22/23 is awaited.

### **Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme 2024**

SCDC's popular Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme is now into its sixth year and the latest scheme opens for applications on 2nd April. Since its inception, more than half a million pounds has been given to schemes across the district. Projects are invited under two main themes: to reduce carbon emissions or lock up carbon and to increase community engagement around climate change. Grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 are available to parish councils and community groups in the district and a total pot of £125,000 is available. Further information, help and advice is available by emailing [zcc@scambbs.gov.uk](mailto:zcc@scambbs.gov.uk)

### **Weekly food waste collections**

On 25 March, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced that [councils in England will be supported with up to £295 million in government funding to introduce weekly food waste collections by 31 March 2026](#).

The [funding will cover new food waste containers for homes and specialist collection vehicles](#), targeted at councils that have yet to fully put food waste service in place. We should have more details soon.

### **Mobile / Community Wardens Scheme**

SCDC has agreed to use its reserves to underpin the Age UK Mobile/Community Warden Schemes across the district by £100K, which is additional to the council's usual financial support. All schemes are struggling financially but those serviced by Age UK have been particularly hard hit and without this support it is highly likely that they would have been wound up by the charity. The extra SCDC funding will allow all schemes to continue until 2025 and give the council extra time to conclude work that it commissioned several months ago to quantify the value of the warden schemes to the wider care service, allowing (as it does) vulnerable residents to remain at home rather than needing hospital and/or long-term residential care. It is hoped that the report will give the council persuasive evidence to present to the County Council and the NHS seeking

greater financial support of the wardens scheme. We very much hope that the new Integrated Care Partnership will live up to its name because, without increased financial support, the future for the schemes after April 2025 is bleak.

### **Local Plan Timetable Update**

A timetable update has become necessary for producing the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This is a key planning document which would ensure that growth is delivered in a sustainable way for people and the environment. It is clear that the existing timetable for the Local Plan can no longer be met, owing to multiple external factors, including restraints posed by a lack of water availability, the failure to deliver a sustainable transport strategy and the intervention of the government which is demanding the building of homes in significantly higher numbers (“northwards of 150K new homes”) than that proposed by the Local Planning Authority (50K).

We are awaiting further information about the Government’s plans for Cambridge 2050. At the moment it seems local councils will have involvement via an ‘advisory council’ but we don’t have more detail than this.

### **Statement of Community Involvement for Planning**

SCDC, together with Cambridge City Council has formally adopted a new key planning document which sets out how they will help residents have their say on a wide range of planning matters during the next five years. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is intended to increase public participation in the planning system and, in doing so, empowering residents to play an active role in shaping the future of Greater Cambridge. This goes much further than previous SCIs in ensuring that residents’ views are better reflected in the emerging Local Plan. More detail can be found here: <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/about-us/statement-of-community-involvement/>

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of South Cambs**

SCDC is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this month. A civic ceremony was held at South Cambridgeshire Hall in Cambourne. You can find out all about what happened as well as some of the history/ successes of the district council over the years here: [50 years of South Cambridgeshire District Council - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/50-years-of-south-cambridgeshire-district-council)

### **East West Rail Community Conversations**

East West Rail have organised ‘community conversation events’ over the next couple of months to talk about their plans. There are three in the Greater Cambridge area: Cambourne 10th May, Cambridge 21st May, Comberton 22nd May. These are not part of the statutory consultation for EWR but should prove to be interesting/ informative events and it would be good to see parish councillors going along so that when it comes to the statutory consultation Parish Councils can feed into it fully. You can find out more here: [eastwestrail.co.uk/news/latest-stories/community-conversation-events](https://www.eastwestrail.co.uk/news/latest-stories/community-conversation-events).

## COUNCILS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND KEY 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@scamb.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.warrengreen@scamb.gov.uk)

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

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