

CLLR FIROUZ THOMPSON

FULL COUNCIL

Full Council meeting – 16 May

The Annual Council meeting agreed three motions from councillors, amended and passed a fourth, and voted down a fifth.

- My motion to seek to ensure availability of childcare in new developments, after learning that many new developments were being built with covenants on them preventing use of domestic properties by childminders. My full motion can be found on the following link to the agenda paper for our full council - agenda item 16a, page 4 of the agenda deck. [County Council meeting 16/05/2023](#)
- Cllr Bryony Goodliffe proposed a motion to recognise the experience of care leavers ('care experienced people') as equivalent to a 'protected characteristic' which councils have a duty in law to consider when making decisions.
- Cllr Ros Hathorn proposed joint working to develop an action plan for better information about Cambridgeshire's cycle networks.
- Cllr Alan Sharp proposed a motion about highways maintenance, which was amended to require a draft action plan to be considered by the Highways & Transport Committee in July.
- Cllr Steve Count proposed a motion, which was defeated, seeking to review the council's decision in March on the Cambourne to Cambridge busway route.

The Full Council also agreed a new People Strategy. This aims to align the council's workforce to achieve the council's ambitions over the next five years. It focuses on four themes: attracting, appreciating, supporting and developing the council's staff.

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC)

Accountability agreement

COSMIC has approved an Accountability Agreement, which is a new requirement for any organisation receiving more than £1M a year from the Government's Department for Education. This sets out a limited number of priority aims, targets and key performance indicators for Cambridgeshire Skills in delivering high quality adult education.

Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund

This fund consists of £1.5M left over from the previous administration's £5M Communities Capital Fund. £1M will be made available for community capital projects to improve or upgrade community buildings and assets, while supporting the council to achieve at least three of its strategic ambitions.

- Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, and our communities and natural environment are supported to adapt and thrive as the climate changes.
- Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable.
- Health inequalities are reduced.
- People enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs.
- People are helped out of poverty and income inequality.
- Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised.
- Children and young people have opportunities to thrive.

The fund will open for a single round of applications during the 2023/24 financial year, with an upper bid limit of £40,000. Cambridgeshire based voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations will be eligible to apply, as will district, town and parish councils, and businesses if they can evidence the public benefit of their project.

The remaining £0.5M will be reserved for the County Council's own community based assets, where this will support the council's commitment to decentralisation.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Flood Group conference

Following the success of last year's first Flood Group Conference at Alconbury Weald, the 2023 Conference will take place on Thursday 21 September in St Ives. The County Council's Community Flood Action Programme has been shortlisted for a national award.

Home Upgrade Grants

Cambridgeshire has been awarded £11.5M over two years to improve energy efficiency in homes which are not on mains gas. More information, including eligibility criteria, at actiononenergycambs.org/funding

Sunnica solar farm

The Planning Inspectorate is currently expected to submit its recommendation for the Sunnica solar farm application, located between Burwell and Red Lodge, by 28 June.

Smart journeys

The new Smart Journeys team is now in place working with developers of sites at Northstowe, Alconbury Weald, and Cambridge Science Park to promote active travel throughout the developments.

Disposal of vapes and metal recycling

Following a number of fires, an information campaign is being planned about the safe disposal of vapes and the hazards of fires in collection vehicles and waste plants arising from the batteries sealed inside these items. There is currently a six week campaign of bus advertising, radio and social media across the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough promoting the need to recycle all metals.

Envar application refused

The application for new waste facilities including an incinerator at the Envar site at Woodhurst was (narrowly) refused. The applicant is considering next steps which include an option to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

Waste Water Treatment Works

Having withdrawn its application to relocate its waste water treatment works from NE Cambridge to Horningsea, Anglian Water resubmitted its plans on 28 April. These plans have been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate.

Infrastructure Levy consultation

The Government is consulting on technical aspects of its proposed changes to how developer contributions towards new infrastructure are secured. The Government says the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill seeks to replace the current system of 'Section 106' developer contributions with a mandatory, more streamlined, and locally determined Infrastructure Levy.

Biodiversity and green spaces

The Tree & Woodland Strategy is now out to tender, including assessment of tree canopy cover for the whole county, and more detailed analysis on County Council land. The strategy will also include length of hedgerow on County Council land, amounts of carbon sequestered, and areas for future tree planting.

Work is also ongoing with Natural Cambridgeshire on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Cambridgeshire, with a formal launch imminent.

Low carbon heating for council buildings

Air source heat pumps have been installed at 22 council buildings to date, replacing fossil fuel heating systems. A further five new projects are also now in progress, supported by grant funding, and the County Council is applying to the Low Carbon Skills Fund for grants towards design for the next batch of sites.

Autonomous vehicle trials

Connecting Cambridgeshire will be supporting the Greater Cambridge Partnership to deliver two autonomous vehicle projects, one running services around the West Cambridge campus, Cambridge Biomedical Campus, and between Babraham and Trumpington Park & Rides; the other looking at the feasibility of autonomous transit to support developments to the east of Cambridge.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

East West Rail

The southern route, rather than the northern, has now been announced as the preferred option for the section of East West Rail from Bedford to Cambridge. Leader of the County Council Lucy Nethsingha said:

This is a nationally important piece of infrastructure, and we have been supportive of the principle of the rail link between Oxford and Cambridge for many years. It was good to hear a renewed government commitment to the project earlier in the year, and we are keen to study the detail of these proposals.

Rail travel is one of the most efficient and greenest transport systems, and increasing the opportunities for rail transport in our area is a key priority and important as part of our commitment to a greener fairer Cambridgeshire.

We will look closely at the detail of what has been announced today, we want to understand the exact alignment and what this means for residents and particular areas of the county. We look forward to working with our communities and with the East West Rail Company to understand and refine the proposals and address local concerns. We are also keen to understand whether the calls for the line to be electric from the start have been heard.

Sustainable Travel Zone / Congestion Charge

The public response to the *Making Connections* (Sustainable Travel Zone / Congestion Charge) consultation has now been published. More than 24,000 people responded to the consultation, which proposed measures to transform the bus network alongside better walking and cycling infrastructure that would be funded in the long term by the phased introduction of a road user charge.

The key findings and the wide-ranging views—both in favour of and against the proposals—are contained in a paper to the Greater Cambridge Partnership's Joint Assembly which meets on Thursday 8 June. The headlines are below.

- Over 70 per cent of people were in favour of the future transport network, with more buses to more locations, cheaper fares and longer operating times supported by better walking and cycling infrastructure to give people faster, cheaper and more reliable travel alternatives to the car.
- 58 per cent of respondents opposed the proposed Sustainable Travel Zone (STZ) as the means for delivering the transport vision. Opposition increased with age from 35 to 64, with 55-64 year olds the most likely to oppose. Those who lived outside Cambridge were also more likely to oppose.
- 34 per cent of people supported the STZ as proposed. Support was highest among the youngest and the oldest respondents, who are more likely to find it most difficult to access education and

healthcare due to the limitations of the existing bus network. Support was highest in the centre and west of Cambridge.

- Around half of those who opposed the STZ did support the vision for better buses.
- The views from organisations such as business, healthcare and others were broadly supportive of the plans but with caveats about the impact on staff or those who were vulnerable.
- Additional representative opinion polling was carried out which showed opposition and support for a road user charge was more balanced.

The reasons for supporting or opposing varied but covered a variety of areas.

- Those who supported the proposals were keen to get more frequent bus services, would be able to cycle more safely and generally were positive towards the idea of a charge to tackle climate change and reduce congestion.
- Those who opposed felt the exemptions didn't go far enough, and perceived a charge to be unfair, in particular on those travelling to Addenbrookes, and also believed there would be a negative impact on jobs.

With a large number of free text responses in the survey to supplement the 'closed questions', a lot of detail is now available about what people feel could be positive amendments to the scheme. These included changing the rate for cars, changing the hours, amending the discounts and exemptions, and altering the boundaries.

No decisions have been made, and the report will be discussed at the Greater Cambridge Partnership's Joint Assembly meeting on Thursday 8 June.

Cambridgeshire Matters Newsletter

[Cambridgeshire Matters - April 2023 \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com/newsletters/cambridgeshire-matters-april-2023)

[Cambridgeshire Matters - May 2023 \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com/newsletters/cambridgeshire-matters-may-2023)

MEANWHILE ON THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

The most significant item on the Combined Authority Board agenda for 31 May is the Local Transport & Connectivity Plan. As the Government has still not published its guidance on Local Transport Plans, due last September, the Plan may need to be revised even if approved. It contains district-specific strategies, carbon assessments, impact assessments, and more.

The document's Mission Statement says:

The transport network must put improved health at its core, it must help create a fairer society, it must respond to climate change targets, it must protect our environment and clean up our air, and it must be the backbone of sustainable economic growth in which everyone can prosper.

And it must bring a region of cities, market town and very rural areas closer together. It will be achieved by investing in a properly joined-up, net zero carbon transport system, which is high quality, reliable, convenient, affordable, safe, and accessible to everyone, Better, cleaner public transport will reduce private car use, and more cycling and walking will support both healthier lives and a greener region. Comprehensive connectivity, including digital improvements, will support a sustainable future for our region's nationally important and innovative economy.

The Plan's proposed approach is to deliver new high-quality active travel infrastructure, prioritise bus links including demand-responsive transport, improve the rail network, investigate new Park & Ride facilities near on the A10 near Waterbeach, improve the A10 and the A142/A14 junction at Exning, and support electric vehicles.

MEETINGS ATTENDED and COMMUNITY WORK 7 May to 4 June 2023

Local meetings:

Over Parish Council (9 May), Oakington & Westwick Parish Council AGM (9 May), Northstowe Delivery Group (18 May), Cllr Bros Sabria re: Northstowe Market (22 May), Northstowe Town Council (23 May), SCDC Community Team (25 May), Over Parish Council Annual Meeting (25 May), Over Pot holes tour (26 May), Interim Northstowe Delivery Group (1 Jun)

Council meetings:

CCC/Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership (9 and 14 May), Starship Robots (11 and 25 May), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (12 May), Full Council meeting (16 May), Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (16 May), BBC Cambridgeshire Radio Breakfast time – to talk about Childminder motion (17 May), Members drop-in Highways – Potholes (19 May), CCC South Cambs Community Team (24 May)

Community work:

Parish/Town Council monthly reports, Column write ups within Northstowe News, Longstanton Life (currently on hold) and Oakington & Westwick Journal, Northstowe Town Council Market Working Group – arranging food trucks and volunteers, NSC Fundraising Committee – Car Boot Sale (20 May), Northstowe Foodies, Arranging Food Pantry beside the Mobile Library (2nd Friday of the month) and Bar Hill hub on Sundays.

Private case work:

Most Councillors will have private case work that they are dealing with, details of which cannot be shared due to GDPR – current themes are Bar Hill Asylum Seekers, Early Years, ASB, Youth, Potholes.

WARD NEWS

South Access Road West (SARW)

12 June at 10am – Virtual meeting with Homes England, CCC officers, Longstanton PC, Oakington & Westwick PC and Northstowe Town Council to discuss the specifics below. Questions are due on by **Wed 7 June**.

- Speed strategy
- Discuss issues – light and noise pollution
- Communication to the TC/PCs and residents
- Management of the road after opening in July

Police – Noisy motorcyclist

It seems the noisy motorcyclist going around our villages has again come up as an issue. It is important to ensure that if the offender returns that we report this as the Police will have powers to seize his motorcycle. Please encourage your residents to do this and if they are able to safely get a video of him driving on paths or going through red lights, then please send them to me.

Any further reports of this or similar issues should be reported through the force's webchat on our website: <https://orlo.uk/97Zoi> Anyone without internet access should call 101.

Cardinalis Concrete, Longstanton Park and Ride

Having spoken to both CCC and SCDC officers, I have responded to the General Manager and asked that they consider a quarterly sweep of the B1050 leading to A14 and ensure that the road leading to their site on the Park and Ride be kept regularly clean. I await their response.

LONGSTANTON Incl. B1050 Surface Treatments

Unfortunately, to ensure there was no clash of closures at the same time in the Longstanton area; our contractors are re-applying for permits to work at these locations. They will reschedule some of the works to avoid any clashes with the planned roadworks in mid-June on the High Street by Virgin Media.

Surface Treatment processes such as Surface Dressing and Gripfibre Micro Asphalt are multi site programs that are weather dependent, and are also subject to breakdown and parked vehicle delays. The programs and dates issued, are therefore best guesses/guides rather than totally accurate actual dates as they would be with a traditional plane out and inlay tarmac resurfacing.

Works commenced over the half term on 30 May

- B1050 Old Hattons Road, Longstanton – completed
- B1050 Bypass, Longstanton – started 2 June and should be completed early w/c 5 June

Yet to be confirm dates, all will require Road closure (specific times during the day) and diversion

- Hattons Road, Longstanton
- Home Farm Road, Longstanton
- School Lane, Longstanton

Please note, all the below will be treated and assessed on a site-by-site basis in accordance with Cambridgeshire County Council's policy which can be found on the website:

- All junctions will be treated with the Gripfibre Dressing
- All white lining replaced within 28 days
- All studs/cats' eyes replacement – this works was started last week

- Several potholes on the High Street have been marked and are due to be filled within 21 days.
- One particular pothole on a trench near Mitchcroft Road has been raised by the local residents, as the trench has slightly dropped and the houses nearby are reporting that they can hear a tremendous thud when the bus hits the area in question causing the vibrations and the normal sized cars cause a noise nuisance. The details have been sent to the Local Highways Manager.

NORTHSTOWE

- Northstowe Support Group – I am currently discussing with the CCC community officers on how this group could look like going forward to ensure that it needs of all the participants.

OAKINGTON AND WESTWICK

- LHI – Reduction of speed between Girton and Oakington – awaiting next stage, timeline below:

Application window opens – Monday 31 October 2022

Application window closes - Friday 6 January 2023 at 5pm

Prioritisation and feasibility studies undertaken – February to April 2023

Member panel meetings – May 2023

Report to committee including prioritised lists for approval - June 2023

Programming, design, and consultation with applicants - July 2023 to March 2024

Pricing and construction – March 2024 to August 2024.

- 20mph in Westwick– awaiting decisions, timeline below:

Application window opens – Monday 27 February 2023

Application window closes – at 5pm on Sunday 30 April 2023

Prioritisation undertaken – May to July 2023

Report to committee including prioritised list for approval - July 2023

Programming, design, and consultation with applicants - September 2023 to March 2024

Pricing and construction – March 2024 to July 2024.

- Water Lane hedge – Laura has been in touch with the landowner finally and has sent him a quote for a local gardener to cut back the hedge. Hoping now that they are corresponding with the PC, there will not be any need for Highways team to get involved.

OVER

- Potholes – below is my post on Facebook on 27 May

Today myself and the new Local highways Manager Aaron spent 3hrs going around Over village and mark up further potholes on top of the marked ones already - the figure was around approx. 100 new potholes marked.

Thanks to the residents who gave us way and stopped to chat. We also picked up on ways to make Longstanton Road safer on the edges, blocked drains, flooding hotspots and some footpaths. We are hopeful that all marked potholes will be completed in 21 days.

I like to thank Aaron who attended today, he is newly appointed and only starts his new job next week and he was happy to come out on a Saturday which is not his working day to take this tour with me.

We have two extra dragon patchers that are being deployed to blitz whole areas in which the worst incidences occur - South Cambs and City - with the intention of clearing whole parishes of potholes, this is what we are doing for Over. Repairing just the deep potholes is not enough - we are trying to repair surrounding areas of worn out road too, but it all comes down to budget and some holes are not deep enough for the dragon patcher.

PLEASE keep reporting any issues on our reporting tool, even if they have been reported, please state detailed info like outside no. X on XX road and upload pictures. This will collate data on the road. <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

Since this post, Aaron has informed me that only several of the potholes will have to be filled in the conventional way, the rest will be hopefully using the dragon patcher.

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>County Council</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>District Council</p> <p>Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning.</p>
<p>Parish/ Town Council</p> <p>Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Open spaces, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters.</p>
<p>Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)</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>The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor</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>Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge and Peterborough</p> <p>To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.</p>
<p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority</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.

Firouz Thompson, County Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe, Over and Oakington & Westwick
Email: firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

For those on social media we have highly active Facebook groups:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/libdems3rdMay18> - Over & Willingham