

CLLR FIROUZ THOMPSON

FULL COUNCIL

Budget

Like three quarters of all councils in the country this year, Cambridgeshire County Council was forced to increase its portion of the council tax by 4.99 per cent, the maximum permitted.

As a Joint Administration we faced up to the financial challenge facing the county which results from a legacy of poor choices by the outgoing administration, along with the failure of the Government for a number of years now to introduce a fair funding formula. Without this, we receive a much worse deal than many other councils. Where we have had to make savings, we have done so carefully, and certainly not imposed the kind of savage cuts that some opposition councillors have mistakenly claimed.

Full Council meeting

The next meeting of the Full Council will take place on Tuesday 21 March. LibDems have submitted a motion for debate on the Government's decision to introduce new Voter ID requirements for elections. We are looking at ways the Council can support the effort to ensure the many people without the required photo ID apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate so that they are not denied their right to vote.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

Great Gidding School

Councillors have agreed to move forward to the next stage of the statutory process which may result in the closure of Great Gidding CofE Primary School.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Children and Young People's Committee today (March 8) considered feedback received through the first period of public consultation on the viability of the school, where pupil numbers have been falling over recent years.

[Agreement to publish proposal to close Great Gidding CofE Primary School - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Northstowe Education Campus

Cambridgeshire County Council's Children and Young People's Committee today (March 8) have approved: Round 2 of the Pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System (PDPS) to delegate responsibility for awarding and executing the contracts for the provision of early years and childcare starting April 2023 – April 2024 to the Director of Education. These are listed below.

- Early Years (EY) provision at the new primary school in Sawtry
- EY provision at the new primary school in Waterbeach
- **EY provision at second primary school in Northstowe Education Campus**
- EY provision at St John's Primary School, Huntingdon
- EY provision at Growing Places Children's Centre, Sutton

Cambridgeshire Music

I have been appointed as a Board Member of Cambridgeshire Music based in Histon at Cambridgeshire County Council's Children and Young People's Committee today (March 8). Cambridgeshire Music is referred to as a partnership of school music providers, led by the County Council, to deliver the government's National Plan for School Music. I attended as a board member on Friday 3 March board meeting and look forward to working with the rest of the board to deliver its vision.

Strikes in School

The National Education Union has announced four strike dates affecting Cambridgeshire.

- Wednesday 1 February (national) – which did take place
- Wednesday 1 March (East of England)
- **Wednesday 15 March (national)**
- **Thursday 16 March (national)**

The County Council's education team has been providing advice and information to schools, and the Director of Education has met with the Trade Unions. The most up to date and relevant information about strikes affecting particular schools will be on the schools' own websites. However a list will also be maintained at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/school-term-dates-closures/school-closures>

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Waste contract

The County Council's long-term waste disposal PFI contract with Thalia at Waterbeach continues to be a major preoccupation of the Council. Work is continuing on options for the odour emission abatement required by the Environment Agency, and Government changes to food waste collection arrangements are proving challenging.

Swaffham Prior

There continues to be ongoing media interest in the Swaffham Prior renewable energy project, including from the BBC1 national morning magazine programme and the property section of the Sunday Times. The first homes in the village are already receiving heat from the new system.

Waste water treatment plant

Anglian Water have withdrawn their application for the move of the waste water treatment plant from North East Cambridge to Horingsea, which we expect to be revised and resubmitted.

Water industry consultation

Cambridge Water – Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 Consultation - closes 19 May.

[Our Water Resources Plan | Cambridge Water \(cambridge-water.co.uk\)](https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/our-water-resources-plan)

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Local Highways Improvement Schemes

LHI bids being presented to councillors for recommendation to the Highways & Transport Committee will be considered at a panel meeting on Friday 12 May.

From now until 28 April, applications for new 20MPH speed limits can be submitted by any person as long as they have the support of their local parish or town council and county councillor. Once an application has been submitted it will be processed and prioritised, until all schemes have been delivered.

Incident Reports

The Traffic Management Centre has responded to 138 incidents on the road network throughout Cambridgeshire in February covering 20 weekdays. This is a decrease to January but higher than that of February 2022. Please see the table below which illustrates the number of incidents over the last 6 months, compared to the same period last year:

	September	October	November	December	January	February
2021/22	99	127	136	82	122	100
2022/23	112	109	207	140	167	138

Cambridgeshire Matters Newsletter

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCAMBSCC/bulletins/345fdfb>

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

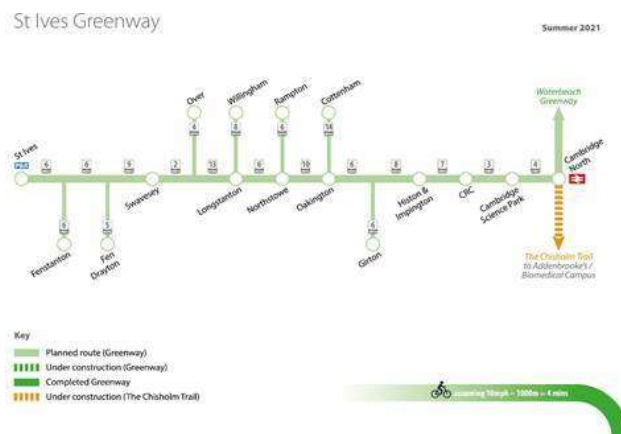
The Combined Authority Board continues to focus on its Improvement work. It has agreed to appoint an Executive Director Resources & Performance, and an Executive Director Economy & Growth.

BUSWAY

St Ives Greenway Project

Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership has been developing proposals for 12 new Greenways, which will provide safe, convenient, and attractive active travel routes between Cambridge and its surrounding villages.

The St Ives Greenway project is unique in that rather than create a new route, we aim to enhance the existing, well-used, active travel path parallel to the guided busway (also known as National Cycle Route 51) between St Ives and Cambridge. There are two elements to this. The first is to develop new connections to neighbouring villages so that people can more safely and easily reach the route by foot or cycle, and the second is to secure the longer-term resilience of the route to flooding between St Ives and Swavesey. See map below.



Improving access to the Greenway

To bring benefits for communities along the route sooner, we are bringing two projects out to public consultation in February, these include a spur linking Oakington to Cottenham as well as spurs to Fen Drayton and Over. These spurs would provide safer and better connections for those walking, cycling and, where appropriate, horse-riding to and from the main active travel route.

On the 2nd of February, a briefing was hosted for the relevant ward and county councillors as well as the local Parish Councils for Fen Drayton, Over, Oakington, Westwick and Cottenham.

For both the Oakington to Cottenham spur and Over to Fen Drayton spur, there will be an eight-week public consultation via an **online survey** will run from **midday Monday 6th February** until **midday Friday 31st March 2023**. This will include an online public Microsoft Teams event, as well as materials being provided online for comment via a survey. If any materials is required in an alternative format, please email consultations@greatercambridge.org.uk or call 01223 699906

The public consultation will give members of the public the opportunity to learn more about the project and provide their views. More information will be provided in due course online at:

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/active-travel-projects/greater-cambridge-greenways/st-ives-greenway>

LONGSTANTON

- Patching of the local roads below took place w/c 30 January, looks like there will be further patching on School Lane on 13 March from 8am to 4pm, <https://one.network/?GB133006170>
- The next phase will take place **beginning of June (weather permitting)** with the following treatments/dressings. Please refer to leaflets sent via email with February report.
 - B1050 Hattons Road (between Longstanton and Barhill) -Gripfibre treatment
 - B1050 Longstanton Bypass – Gripfibre treatment
 - School Lane - Surface dressing
 - Home Farm Road -Surface Dressing

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
- New Farm Road drain covers are still on order, due to amount of drain covers stolen across the county CCC have been unable to source the covers as quickly as have hoped
 - Hatton Park Walking Bus is still in the making, as we have not had the required parent volunteers.

NORTHSTOWE

- Transport Assessment & Smart Journeys
The team are currently undertaking a review of Smart Journeys interventions in Northstowe including:
 - Revising the Monthly Ticket offer to residents to a Flex Ticket to reflect more flexible working practices.
 - Updating the E-cycle scheme.
 - Re-structuring the Electric Car offer to a more flexible scheme to encourage uptake
 - The team is also in discussion with Stagecoach and the developer to provide Bus Stop infrastructure for the existing (Citi 5) bus service to extend into Northstowe.
 - Longstanton Park and Ride Links – both links are now open. Balfour Beatty have confirmed the delivery of the lanterns for the streetlights is scheduled to arrive for March 9th and installations will take place very soon after. CCC Project manager has been on site and has identified minor snags only, a completion certificate will be signed following these works.
- Northstowe Resident Survey has now been published. [Cambridgeshire Insight – Housing & Planning – Housing priorities – New homes & communities](#). Please scroll down to and expand "The local picture", and then scroll down to "New housing development surveys". This survey took place between July and September 2022 and was posted to 1,095 households in Northstowe, with the paper survey containing the details of online access to the survey. Respondents could either complete and return the paper copy of the survey or complete the survey online. 384 responses were returned giving an overall response rate of 35%. As shown in the Table below, this response rate gives a level of statistical error at the 95% confidence interval of 4%, a common standard of error for this type of survey. This survey aims to find out about households in newer communities in order to assist in informing future planning decisions and service provisions for new developments.
- Thursday 9 March – virtual meeting in place with Pathfinder School, County Council education officers and Northstowe Town Councillors Cllrs Carla Bros and Cllr Majdi Mgaidia and Ellen Bridges from SCDC to discuss Early Years and Childcare in Northstowe.

OAKINGTON

- 20mph and A14 Legacy - snagging works have now been shifted to 29 March and thereafter, a Road Safety Audit 3 (after completion) will take place.
Oakington Primary School Head Teacher has reported that the new school signs are not visible and has written to Highways via the ReportIT tool to acquire a different sign. I have liaised with the project manager and confirmed to the Head Teacher that the signs have been placed on Water Lane, are the correct sizes for the V85 limit based on the traffic surveys.
If a different sign is requested for the school, it would mean that discussions should take place with the Parish Council and it would need to be funded via a Private Funding Highways Improvement, details are on this link: [Privately Funding Highway Improvements - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)
- The double yellow lines on the junction have now been blacked out.

OVER

- Potholes reported on social media have been shared with Highways Team and awaiting feedback.

MEETINGS ATTENDED and COMMUNITY WORK 7 February to 8 March 2023

Local meetings:

Oakington Parish Council (13 Feb), Northstowe Delivery Group (16 Feb), Northstowe Warm Hub (17 Feb), Sustainable Northstowe AGM (17 Feb), Meeting with SCDC Ellen Bridges re: Time Capsule (20 Feb), Northstowe Town Council (28 Feb)

Council meetings:

Members Briefing on Consultation relating to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School (8 Feb), Meeting with CCC Officer Tam Parry (14 Feb), Members briefing Cambourne to Cambridge, Cambridge Past, Present & Future (20 Feb), Member Training/Awareness Session - Managing Complaints (1 Mar), Meeting with Greater Cambridge Partnership re: Bus Route 5A (3 Mar), Cambridgeshire Music Board meeting – as an observer (3 Mar), Children & Young People's Committee meeting (8 Mar)

Community work:

Northstowe Town Council Market Working Group, NSC Fundraising Committee, Northstowe Foodies, Arranging Food Pantry beside the Mobile Library (2nd Friday of the month)

Private case work:

Most Councillors will have private case work that they are dealing with, details of which cannot be shared due to GDPR.

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