

CLLR FIROUZ THOMPSON

STRATEGY & RESOURCES

Cost of Living Crisis

The County Council has been working with partners including District Councils and the Fire Authority on the help that needs to be made available to local residents facing huge cost of living challenges in the months ahead.

Advice and information on a single page

The Council is collating helpful information and advice on a single webpage. This includes information about schemes the Council is running or administering, as well as schemes run by others. More information will be added as it becomes available.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living>

Household Support Fund

The Council is reminding residents of the household support fund to increase uptake from eligible people of pensionable age. The Council is producing a leaflet on this fund for distribution through faith and community groups and at foodbanks.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund>

Council budget gap widens

Galloping inflation is a problem for households and businesses, but also for the Council. It has significantly widened the Council's budget gap, as well as leaving more residents in need of serious financial help from the Council as energy bills soar and the cost of living continues to rise.

Staffing review

Staffing & Appeals Committee meeting interviewed for some of the senior posts within the Council following the Chief Executive's restructure. We will be going to external advertisement for a number of key posts:

- Executive Director: Place and Sustainability
- Executive Director: Finance and Resources
- Service Director: Legal and Governance
- Service Director: Policy and Communities
- Assistant Director: Communities, Employment and Skills

ADULTS & HEALTH

NHS dentistry shortage: Nine in 10 NHS dental practices across the UK are not accepting new adult patients for treatment under the health service. In a third of the UK's more than 200 council areas, no dentists are taking on adult NHS patients. Eight in 10 NHS practices are not taking on children. Of 45 dental practices in Cambridgeshire with NHS contracts, not a single one was taking on new adult patients.

The figures reveal an NHS dental system which is fundamentally broken, with people forced to spend hundreds or even thousands of pounds on private dental care and some even resorting to DIY dentistry.

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY AND INCLUSION (CoSMIC)

Warm Hubs: Cambridgeshire ACRE is working with East and South Cambridgeshire District Councils on the provision of a network of 'warm hubs' to enable people to stay safe and warm over what is likely to be a very challenging winter of fuel and food poverty for many.

Local communities are being encouraged by Cambridgeshire ACRE to consider how they could be part of such a network, and setup support and ongoing support and advice will also be available. Interested organisations

are being invited to complete an expression of interest form online and return it to Cambridgeshire ACRE. Two briefing events for parish councils and community organisations were held by Cambridgeshire ACRE on Monday 5 and Wednesday 7 September.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

The Consultation on proposals for a new reservoir in the Fens will launch in autumn, when the water companies' preferred site will be announced. The project aims to provide significant additional resilience for public water supply, agriculture and the environment across Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

<https://wre.org.uk/project/future-fens-the-south-lincolnshire-and-fenland-reservoirs/>

Climate challenges

The exceptionally hot, dry weather this summer has presented challenges to the fire service in Cambridgeshire. July saw the two busiest days ever for local crews, and August placed similar demands on the service. More information about outdoor fire safety at <http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/community-safety/outdoor-safety/>

Meanwhile water companies are asking residents to use water wisely and reuse wherever possible to help keep taps running this summer. A drought was declared in East Anglia, and restrictions on irrigation put in place on the Ely Ouse system, but (to date) no hosepipe bans for domestic residents.

<http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water/water-saving-tips/>

Decarbonising community buildings

Cambridgeshire ACRE has been considering how it can support the county's 280+ community-run buildings to reduce carbon emissions, improve resilience to climate impacts and encourage and enhance the natural environment. Cambridgeshire ACRE is proposing to focus its regular 'coffee morning' events on this subject; work with and promote exemplar buildings; ensure those running community buildings are aware of all possible funding streams; and asking those who have led such projects to offer mentoring support to others.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Greater Cambridge 'Public Transport & City Access' consultation

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly is being asked to consider proposals for a consultation on improved public transport and active travel into and around Cambridge, with a Sustainable Travel Zone including a road user charging scheme. The consultation proposals will then be considered by the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board on 28 September.

The Partnership has been considering for some years how to improve poor public transport provision and also solve car traffic congestion and pollution in Cambridge. This is important, when even the inadequate bus services we have are under threat from uncertain central government funding, but also difficult.

We need a plan that reduces carbon emissions, improves air quality, and makes Cambridgeshire's roads safer and less congested, while at the same time providing affordable, reliable, and convenient options for travel.

However, I am not convinced that these proposals achieve that or offer the right balance for South Cambridgeshire residents. My colleagues and I will be working with local people and with politicians in Greater Cambridge to draw up ideas we think will serve South Cambridgeshire residents better.

Meanwhile, we strongly encourage residents to read the proposals and respond to the consultation when it opens. <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/news/ambitious-proposals-to-deliver-world-class-transport-network-for-greater-cambridge-unveiled> highlighting key facts on <https://twitter.com/GreaterCambs>

Some articles explaining details:

<https://www.hihub.info/news/road-charges-to-pay-for-better-buses-under-new-transport-plans/>

<https://www.camcycle.org.uk/blog/2022/08/what-is-the-cambridge-sustainable-travel-zone/>

Local Highways Improvement reporting

The County Council will shortly be launching a public web page showing progress on current Local Highways Improvement schemes. This will enable parish councils and residents to track their local LHI projects online.

Monthly Division Reports

Highways

- **B1050 Roundabout:** CCC's Road Safety Audit Stage 1 (Concept and Stage), 2 (Detailed Design) have been completed, the final Stage 3 (Post Construction) is yet to be completed and CCC will meet with Homes England and Sisk to get this over the line. Road safety audits are carried out on all significant County Council and developer promoted highway schemes. This is to ensure adequate levels of safety are maintained and that problems previously identified at similar sites are avoided in new works. The Traffic Management was reinstated back in May to enable final works to be completed safely. These works have been agreed with Cambridgeshire County Council Highways team and when completed will enable the opening of the roundabout junction. **NO updates since last report.**
- **South Access Road West:** Update given by Homes England at July Northstowe Forum: We're currently unable to provide a specific date. Although works are nearly complete, there are some technical processes that need to be followed to ensure the road can open permanently and safely. We apologise that the road and associated footways, cycleways and bridge have taken longer to build than we initially expected. We hope we will be in a position to open the road to the public towards the end of the Summer (2022). Once open, the road will provide a convenient connection between Northstowe and the A14 at Bar Hill, reducing traffic traveling through Longstanton.
- **A1307 leading to B1050 - Ramps:** CCC Highways have been discussing Traffic Management plan for these ramps to be also repaired, we are awaiting dates tbc. Lab results for the ground investigations and testing was received and will be discussed with National Highways who built the A14.
- **A14 Trees:** Following our motion at Cambridgeshire County Council, we are now liaising with National Highways, they are carrying out a survey which will be finished by the end of May, analysis will take a few weeks after. We met with National Highways on 22 June to discuss the survey analysis and next steps and the action plan and will share with you when available. **NO updates since last report.**
- **Homes England FAQs from Northstowe July Forum:**
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a8ffb80e74940793fe11531/t/62e28e961854770e45f89208/1659014810281/Northstowe+FAQs+Final+v2+July+22.pdf>

Other:

- **Northstowe Education Campus:** we continue to liaise with Homes England and their contractor Sisk regarding the completion of Rights of Ways (paths/cycleways/bridleway) from the Busway and Rampton Drift. **NO updates since last report.**
- **Quarterly Homes England meeting:** There is a planned quarterly meeting between Longstanton Parish Council, Northstowe Town Council, Oakington & Westwick Parish Council, Local County and District Members and Homes England on Friday 9 September.
- **Stagecoach:** Following the Quarterly meeting on 9 June I posted updates on their new ticket pricing on social media. I also stood at Longstanton Park & Ride for 1 hour during peak time on 27 June with Stagecoach Operations Manager to see how the service was running and all went well. Following two social media posts, I have given all feedback received to Stagecoach from the residents, the posts that reached over 8,600+ people and comments/engagement were over 130+. **NO updates since last report.**
Discussions are in place with Stagecoach for the City 5 bus to go through Northstowe before Bar Hill as funds are available in S106 Phase 1 for addition to such route, Stagecoach is yet to confirm if buses are able to drive on unadopted roads and confirm the route.

Longstanton

- **Wilson's Road Bridleway South and North:** feedback has been received from the Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum members which includes the British Horse Society, Ramblers, Cycling UK, Cam Cycle and Longstanton Parish Council. This feedback will go back to the Highways & Transport Committee. **NO updates since last report.**
- **Hattons Road Pond/Cycle Path B1050:** a meeting was held on 22 June with CCC, Greater Cambridgeshire Shared Planning, L&Q, Longstanton Parish Council and local Councillors. Key points from a planning perspective were set out:
 - Construction of the Hattons Road Ponds was initially secured by the outline planning permission for Northstowe Phase 1 (S/0388/12/OL) and the detailed design was approved in a subsequent reserved matters approval (S/0038/15/RM). Various amendments have since been made to the approved drawings, although some discrepancies remain compared with the as-built situation.
 - L&Q Estates has been invited to submit a retrospective application for a further amendment to bring the approved plans up to date. Once the application has been received, the planning authority will carefully consider the detail and any implications before making a decision.
 - Should the application be approved, this would regularise the as-built design and allow any outstanding landscaping works to be completed as required by the Section 106 agreement associated with the outline planning permission. Should the application be refused for any reason, formal enforcement action would need to be considered.
 - Linked to this outstanding issue is the B1050 cycleway project, which due to its proximity to Hattons Road Ponds is likely to affect the land transfer arrangements and to some extent the landscaping around the ponds. The planning authority is therefore keen to see any uncertainties resolved so that the abovementioned application can be prepared and submitted as soon as possible.

L&Q informed us that they are discussing with alternative bodies such as Anglian Water regarding the long-term management for Phases 1 and 2. Next steps to be confirmed. **NO updates since last report.**

- **Hatton's Park:** I am currently working with Parish Council, County Council and Hattons Park school to look at ways of improving the traffic around school times: a) walking bus to school from the Pavilion which will require volunteers and b) Second entrance from Magdalene Close.
- **Capital Highway Maintenance Programme:**
[Appendix 1 Capital Highway Maintenance Programme 2022 to 2024 v2 \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](#)
 - Footway maintenance: Prentice Close, Full estate, footway resurfacing, completion date 2022/23 (£150k).
 - Carriageway maintenance: School Lane, from village to B1050, carriageway resurfacing, budgeted 2024-2027 (£250k)
 - Footway Slurry Seal: Haddows Close and Spiggots Close, completion date 2022/23 – **now completed.**

Northstowe

- **Police:** Following various Anti-Social Behaviours and illegal parking around school in Northstowe, Cllr Richard Owens and I met with South Cambs Police Officer on Thursday 7 July, advice was to report all incidents by calling 111 or online or 999 (if life threatening – such as fires/threatening behaviours with knives). Links to ways of reporting [Report a crime or incident | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk), [What to report | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk), [Antisocial behaviour | Cambridgeshire Constabulary \(cambs.police.uk\)](https://www.cambs.police.uk). Please also note that the residents can have their say on what your neighbourhood policing team should be tackling - <https://bit.ly/3ldqB6k> In May you told police that ASB, speeding, and drug dealing were among your concerns and we've been prioritising those issues across the area. Further reports of ASB has been raised on Northstowe Pioneers, I have met with Think Communities team and will raise further concerns with the Police Officer for South Cambs.
- **Links to Longstanton Park and Ride to Northstowe Phase 1:** after several years of not knowing how this link was going to be provided, we are really pleased to say that a contractor has been appointed and a budget agreed for the construction of the link road between Longstanton Park and Ride and the road within Northstowe Phase 1. As part of these works the contractor is also going to construct the path link into the waterpark from the park and ride site.
The appointed contractor is now undertaking some site investigation and clearance and is doing final details of the construction and design and finalising the cost. The project manager at CCC is hoping that they should be on site in September with all the works completed for the new year. The CCC team have requested that the link to the waterpark is built as early as possible to provide this link as soon as possible.
This also means that there will be a lit route between the park and ride and Northstowe this winter which will be very pleasing to all those who walk and cycle this route.
We would like to thank the CCC team, specifically Tam Parry who has worked long and hard to find money that was not available. **NO updates since last report.**
- **Guided Busway link to Northstowe/Rampton Drift:** improving visibility will require vegetation to be cut back, and the speed of the buses to be reduced to 30mph. The scope of the other works is to improve the surfaces on either side of the crossing place. Unfortunately, it is not possible to remove the stepped nature of the crossing as the Guided Busway is on a curve and needs to be guided at this location. The County team are awaiting quotes from Highway's maintenance contractors to level either side of the busway. Also, additional costings are being drawn up to see whether lighting columns just on the Northstowe side of the crossing can be made sufficient to light the crossing point to enable the electric requirements to tap into the existing connection for the pumping station. Pleased to say that Homes England have committed to supplying this. We are currently waiting for a drawing for lighting column location. We hope that the above costs will then be covered under S106 for phase 2 Northstowe, therefore we are having conversations with the main builders for Phase 2 regarding this funding. Timelines are currently difficult to commit to until the order is in with the contractor to do the works. The future plans for leaving Northstowe to go towards Cambridge are on the busway will be via the busway through the town centre and out of Northstowe just north of Oakington when this road opens. **NO updates since last report.**

Oakington & Westwick

- **A14 Legacy Fund:** Proposed TRO (Reference Number PR0786) - Cambridge Road, Water Lane and Station Road, Oakington and Westwick. Proposed speed cushions and road humps in Cambridge Road, Water Lane and Station Road in Oakington and Westwick. This fund was successful for the speed calming in Oakington, A14 Legacy team and Highways England handed over this scheme to County Council in July as the A14 team struggled to resource. Consultation with residents closed in March and no objections were received.

It was agreed between CCC and Oakington & Westwick Parish Council that A14 Legacy speed cushions and road humps and **20mph scheme** (not including Westwick) and **Westwick footpath** resurfacing will all be delivered at the same time. Timelines are based on CCC producing a design and then formally consult on the proposal. This consultation run from mid-July through to Mid-August with only one objection: The Delegated Decision Report and Decision summary can be found here: <https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccclive/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/2049/Committee/30/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

Work commenced w/c 22 August and unfortunately due to the burst water main w/c 29 August and Cambridge Waters subsequent repair work we fell a week behind on our programme below, all being well and weather permitting the Highways team will finish work on Friday 9 September.

- **New development on the corner of Cambridge Road:** With thanks to our Local Highways Officer, who worked with Cook & Cook for 3 days, the footpath has been resurfaced to Highways standards and is looking great. The issue is now to find the budget to adopt the extra footpath, unfortunately not as straightforward as buying a piece of land. We are hoping that the cycling team can fund the legal costs for this path for their Phase 2, this is being discussed currently.
- **Longstanton Road Culvert:** the local gully drainage connections was surveyed but the main access manholes were jammed so we are planning to go back so we can survey the main culvert. Report was shared with Parish Council on 4 July and it stated that there was too much silt in the system to continue, once we have the bigger picture we can look at jetting etc if needs be. A further CCTV survey report was shared today with the Parish Council, it is confirmed that there is no structural damage to this culvert and the brickwork is in good order. There are issues with silt at the ends of the structure but this is all beyond the public highway and where the culvert is piped in private gardens etc. Next steps will be discussed after the officer in charge is back from annual leave.
- **Shared-use Path Improvements Oakington to Girton:** In July, CCC finished the Phase 1 of widening the shared-use path along Oakington Road, between Brook and Gatehouse Road to benefit walking and cycling. We also tightened the junction at Gatehouse Road to improve visibility for path users and carried out some improvements to the pinch point into Oakington to improve the flow along the paths. This was funded by Highways England, as mitigation for the A14 works. Phase 2 will look to primarily be widening the path from Gatehouse Road to Oakington, subject to design. This will be funded by S106 money from Northstowe. The design has been developed and the cost estimate for construction is more than funds remaining. However, the scheme is still being championed by our project board, and it's looking promising that we will find additional money. We should be able to widen the path from the New Road junction up to the first houses, and we are hopeful we can stretch this past Mansel Farm. Whether we can widen the path in front of the main stretch of houses up to the crossroads is more uncertain at the moment. In the meantime, work cannot start until the Autumn due to birds nesting in the hedges, therefore, CCC are using this time to finish the design, apply for flood and water consent and purchase a small strip of land adjacent to the New Road junction. **NO updates since last report.**

Trenches on Cambridge Road: this work was rectified back at the end of July as they unfortunately appeared after the survey worked carried out.

- **Capital Highway Maintenance Programme:** [Appendix 1 Capital Highway Maintenance Programme 2022 to 2024 v2 \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](#)

- Footway maintenance: Station Road, Westwick, from bridge to nursery, footway resurfacing and widening, completion date 2022/23 (£35k). Included alongside A14 legacy and 20mph – **All to be completed by 9 September.**

Over

- **Stagecoach:** I would like to thank Cllr Geoff Twiss, for his very comprehensive document outlining all the busway issues with ticket pricing anomalies, which highlighted the terminology, fare differences, ticket price anomalies and issues, child fares, zoning of busway fares. Stagecoach have informed me that it has been an extremely helpful document. **NO updates since last report.**
- **Mill Road Footpath:** Following a number of queries raised by residents about footpaths on Mill Road, I have been looking into the footway criteria within the County Council. I have been informed by the County Officers outside of any S106 for new developments:
There are two funding grants we receive from Government. The Highway Maintenance block of funding, and the Integrated Transport block of funding. The highway maintenance funding can only be spent on maintenance, and not the provision of new infrastructure, such as new footways/ cycleways, etc. The Integrated Block funding stream is where improvements are funded from. These improvements are usually identified, ranked and prioritised on an annual basis, from a list of projects called the Transport Investment Programme (TIP). This is not managed by the Highways team, but the Transport Strategy and Funding team.
The TIP is available online, both in list and map format, details are on this link.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/transport-plans-and-policies/transport-investment-plan>
There are also a number of cycle routes (shared use) being provided across the County, these are funded through the cycling team.
I am talking with the teams individually to try to understand all these different routes, in the first instance it is worth pointing out that Mill Road footpath is currently not on the TIP as per the above link. The only project outlined for Over is No.239 on page 18 – Longstanton Road, Over between the Guided Busway and King Street – new cycleway – unfunded, part of a Programme by TSCSC - Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.
- **Capital Highway Maintenance Programme:**
[Appendix 1 Capital Highway Maintenance Programme 2022 to 2024 v2 \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](#)
 - Carriageway maintenance: Station Road, Traffic calming to Church End, carriageway resurfacing, budgeted 2024-2027 (£380k)
 - Footway Slurry Seal: Websters Way, **complete.**

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.

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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