

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – JULY 2024
LONGSTANTON, NORTHSTOWE, OVER, OAKINGTON & WESTWICK

CLLR FIROUZ THOMPSON

PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENT CANDIDATE ELECTIONS 4 JULY

I'm thrilled to share that the Liberal Democrats have made significant gains across Cambridgeshire, including our victory in the new constituency of St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire. The newly elected Liberal Democrat MPs are:

Ian Sollom for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire: Turnout 67.87%

Liberal Democrat: 19,517
Conservatives: 14,896
Labour: 6,918
Reform: 5,673
Independent: 2,941
Green Party: 2,663
Party of Women: 274

CLlr Pippa Heylings for South Cambridgeshire: Turnout 71.30%

Liberal Democrat: 25,704
Conservative and Unionist: 15,063
Labour: 6,106
Reform: 4,897
Green Party: 2,656
Independent: 459

Charlotte Cane for Ely and East Cambridgeshire: Turnout 66.4%

Liberal Democrat: 17,127
Conservative: 16,632
Labour: 9,160
Reform: 6,443
Green Party: 2,359
Official Monster Raving Loony Party: 271
Social Democratic Party: 172
Independent: 103
Independent: 102

More details here on our local successes: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cg3j6eyyljdo>

Nationally, the Liberal Democrats have achieved 72 gains, marking a major step forward for our party, led by Ed Davey, who had to perform stunts to cut through and capture media attention.

Thank you to all the residents who voted in these elections.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Ofsted report published

Cambridgeshire County Council's children's services have been graded overall as 'requires improvement' according to Ofsted—no change from the previous inspection. The report follows a recent inspection.

Inspectors said: "Senior leaders have now made an accurate self-assessment and have created strong foundations to drive practice improvement." However, inspectors said that although since 2019 there had

been no overall improvement in services for vulnerable children, they acknowledged that “evidence of concrete and significant improvement in recent months had taken place.”

They also added: “This improvement was initiated by a new chief executive and assisted by the appropriate decision to decouple shared leadership and service arrangements from Peterborough” and that “there has been significant political and corporate investment and commitment to the improvement of outcomes for children in Cambridgeshire.”

The Council acknowledges that there is still work to be done.
Full Ofsted report at <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/5024720>

HAF Programme

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is offering funded holiday scheme places for children in Cambridgeshire this summer who are eligible for free school meals.

This initiative by Cambridgeshire County Council offers primary and secondary school children in the county the chance to enjoy exciting experiences at a wide range of holiday schemes. With a focus on providing healthy meals alongside activities, the programme is ideal for children who want to stay healthy and active during the summer school holidays.

Any child receiving benefit-related free school meals is eligible for the programme, which will run between 23 July and 30 August. Approximately 19,000 HAF eligibility vouchers were sent to families on 10 June. Each voucher offers 64 hours of access, for no charge, to a HAF scheme during the summer holidays.

The programme will be delivered by approved providers, co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council. The council is working with schools, childcare providers and voluntary and community organisations to deliver the programme.

As part of the programme, eligible children will be able to access:

- Fun and entertaining opportunities or new experiences that help children to develop their skills and knowledge
- A variety of holiday schemes including sports, playschemes, drama, technology, outdoor adventure and youth schemes
- At least one meal a day
- Guidance on increasing awareness of healthy eating, lifestyles, and positive behaviours
- Parents will be supported with information and signposting to other services and support which might be helpful to families
- Further information can be found at HAF Provider Directory | Cambridgeshire County Council

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/haf-provider-directory>

This Government funding is due to stop at the end of 2024, let’s hope the new Government will continue this crucial fund.

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC)

Quality of Life Survey

The County Council has launched its second annual quality of life survey for Cambridgeshire. 5,500 residents, 1,100 from each district, have been selected for a telephone survey as a representative sample. However, any resident can complete the survey online until Friday 19 July.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CambsQoL2024/>

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Wisbech incinerator

Before Parliament was dissolved at the end of May, the Government lifted its temporary ban on the Environment Agency issuing operating licences for new incinerators. The Environment Agency issued an operating licence for the Wisbech incinerator the same day. We continue to wait to hear what is happening to Fenland District Council's application for judicial review of the Government's decision to grant planning permission.

Envar incinerator in Woodhurst

The Planning Inspector's report on the appeal against the Council's refusal of this application has been sent to the Secretary of State for consideration. A decision is expected to be issued on or before 20 August 2024.

Deposit return scheme

Also before Parliament was dissolved, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) confirmed that the Deposit Return Schemes for drinks containers will be introduced in October 2027, two years later than previously advised.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Local Highways Improvement Scheme

The indicative timeline for the 24/25 application window is as follows –

- Application window opened on Monday 30 October 2023
- Application window closes on Friday 12 January 2024 at 5pm
- Prioritisation and feasibility studies undertaken between February and April 2024
- Member panel meetings in May 2024
- **Report to committee including prioritised lists for approval on 23 July 2024**
- Programming, design, and consultation with applicants between August 2024 and March 2025
- Pricing and construction between March 2025 and August 2025

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/local-highway-improvement-funding>

20mph Funding

The application window proposed for the next 20mph application round will be as follows: -

- The application window proposed for the next 20mph application round will be as follows: -
- Application window opens on Monday 15 January 2024
- Application window closes on Friday 15 March 2024 at 5pm
- Prioritisation process undertaken between April and June 2024
- **Report to committee including prioritised list for approval – 3 September 2024**

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/applying-for-20mph-funding>

Controlling weeds

Cambridgeshire County Council chemical weed treatment programme has now begun, to address weed growth, which can be a safety hazard. This follows consultation with district, town, and parish councils across the county. Following consultation, a decision was taken to reintroduce planned chemical weed treatment twice a year, as a minimum, within built-up areas in villages and towns, inside the 40mph limit or below.

The weed treatment programme will commence in our ward on 24 June – Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick and Over and a second weed treatment programme will take place in October 2024.

<https://tinyurl.com/43ktm76k>

Traffic Management Centre (TMC)

The TMC responded to 108 incidents on the road network throughout Cambridgeshire in June covering 20 weekdays. This is an increase to May's figure and very similar to that of what we were seeing in June 2023.

Please see the table below which illustrates the number of incidents over the last 6 months, compared to the same period last year;

Incidents by month/year

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
2022/23	167	138	132	79	73	109
2023/24	163	126	80	110	103	108

MEETINGS ATTENDED and COMMUNITY WORK 13 May 2024 to 6 July 2024

Local meetings:

Oakington & Westwick PC meeting (13 May), Smart Journeys Northstowe (22 May), Highways meeting with new Local Highways Officer (3 June), ASB meeting with CCC, SCDC, Police (5 June), Drainage Officer at Longstanton (19 June), Northstowe Nursery provider (2 July).

County Council meetings:

Highways Maintenance Capital Programme (15 May), CCC Full Council meeting (21 May), Highways LHO Programme (17 June), Tree and Woodland Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy Workshop, Environment and Green Investment Committee (17 June), Performance Management Training (19 June), Highways LHO Programme (21 June), Children & Young People Committee (25 June).

Community work:

Thinking Place – Northstowe Place Making Steering Group Session 2 (14 May)

Parish/Town Council monthly report, Column write ups within Northstowe News, Oakington & Westwick Journal and Over News online magazine.

Northstowe Foodies: Northstowe Midsummer Festival Volunteering and Food Trucks (22 June) .

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 Transport, Early Years, ASB, Highways, Broadband, Youth.

Other:

Prospective Parliament Candidate – Elections 4 July – verification and count for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire at Imperial War Museum, Duxford

WARD NEWS

HIGHWAYS

New Local Team

Local Highways Officer: Sarad Budd

Local Highways Officer: Aaron Boddington

Quarterly Highways meetings 2024 dates

Friday 12 July 12noon – 1.30pm at Longstanton Village Hall

Friday 1 November 12noon – 1.30pm

Northstowe Busway Petition

Petition to Reinstate the Additional Morning Peak Hour Buses from Longstanton Park and Ride to Cambridge from September 2024 was launched on 2 June.

This came about after various reports on Facebook that these buses had stopped, when we were not informed locally that they had started again, considering we had a briefing from David Boden on 6 March!

Residents reported that the current buses arriving from Huntingdon/St Ives are often too full by the time they arrive at Longstanton Park and Ride, causing significant delays and leaving many stranded, waiting for two or three buses before we can board. This would obviously affect thereafter Oakington, Histon stops before many depart for either CRC or Cambridge Science Park.

I met with Stagecoach Managing Director – Darren Roe on 19 May with my County Councillor colleague Ros Hathorn (Histon, Impington & Orchard Park ward) Mr Roe stated that he would look into this issue. On 22 May, after follow up Mr Roe informed me that they are looking into September changes. On 24 May, I attended Longstanton Park & Ride when they were offering "Travel by Bus with a brew on us!" and spoke to the Stagecoach Operations Manager, Danny Smith in detail.

As reported in my April 2024 report, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board meeting papers for Bus Reform and Network Delivery update, it stated the following details for Longstanton ward are:

- 1, 17 (NEW) – Express via Busway, Cambridge to Huntingdon, Milton Road, Busway / Science Park, Busway / Histon & Impington, Longstanton P&R, Swavesey, Fenstanton. Largely limited stop catering for longer distance trips.
- 5 – busway A service additional Stops on Histon Road – this route could cater for Sixth Form Pupils attending Chesterton Road Sixth Form
- 7 (NEW) Longstanton Park & Ride to Sutton, rural linking villages to Busway and Sutton (for onward connections). This route could benefit for pupils attending Northstowe Sixth Form on the Education Campus due to open academic year September 2024
- 25 – Integrate Service 1A and 5A – St Ives to Bar Hill main points served will be Fenstanton, Fen Drayton, Over, Swavesey/Willingham, Longstanton P&R. Rural connections to main town and Busway.

Bringing the issue of Longstanton Park and Ride and the new proposals together, we decided as a Liberal Democrat group to start a petition to get these peak hour buses to be reinstated.

To date we have had over 100 responses with only one burst of marketing on local Facebook groups and following an email to the Combined Authority Mayor Nick Johnson on 2 June, we now have a meeting to discuss the above on 15 July.

I would be grateful if members of the Town and Parish Council considering showing support by signing our petition: <https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/iansollom/campaigns/stop-the-wait-in-northstowe>

Since the launch of petition, Ian Sollom was elected as MP on 5 July.

Anti-Social Behaviour across the ward

Working with CCC and SCDC officers and Police to find a solution to the ASB across the ward and beyond – specifically related to South Access Road West, B1050, A1307, Longstanton Road. A meeting was held on 5 June and updates were given by all and solutions discussed, action to invite Homes England to a meeting to discuss possible solutions as SARW is unadopted.

Oakington resident who lives close to Longstanton Road reported that the noise has reduced on 27 June. Longstanton PC chair reported that further reports were made recently, so not totally good news.

Northstowe Nursery on Education Campus

Following the tender process, Little Flames were awarded to run a full day care provision offering places for 9 months- to 4-year-olds. Having caught up with the owner on the 2 July, below are information acquired:

- To date over 60+ parents/carers have registered their interest in 3 days after announcement
- The National Insurance numbers are requested for Early Years funding purposes and are used for this purpose only
- All registrants will be emailed, via the Northstowe Nursery email account, thanking them for their submission and noting that further updates will be emailed directly to them over the coming weeks
- A copy of the company's GDPR Policy will be attached to these emails to confirm how they use and retain information gathered
- They are currently applying for their Ofsted registration, looking to open in September
- Do note that in the first term they will be sharing the nursery with the school, until the school is fully built in January
- They will open all year round, closed for 2 weeks off in August and 2 weeks at Christmas and all bank holidays
- They are looking forward to working with all the community groups for activities with the children and being part of our growing community, I will pass on details but we spoke about the great work that many of our groups are doing, allotments, sustainable Northstowe ...
- Facebook and Instagram pages will be going live soon.
- Please ensure you complete the pre-registration form on the link: <https://www.northstowe-nursery.com>

Forecast Completion Dates as at 18 April

- Section 1 – Nursery – 01/07/2024
- Section 2 – Secondary School extension – 15/08/2024
- Section 3 – Post 16/Sixth Form – 05/12/2024
- Section 4 – Remainder of Works – 10/01/2025

LONGSTANTON

- Entrance to Northstowe Allotments: Met with drainage officer and planning officer on 19 June to discuss how we proceed with the works required on this section, as L&Q are delaying the works to join the pavements and closing the entrance. It was noted that there is a lack of drains on this section and work is commencing to see where new drains can be placed and the section of road damaged be resurfaced. No timelines available but Planning officer will pick up the works with L&Q to look to get some timelines for works to be completed.

NORTHSTOWE

- Travellers were reported on 4 July to be camping out on the corner of Stirling Road and Links Lane – where Hogs Roast use to trade from. L&Q reported that they came on site and found no one on site with caravans in the reported area and employment zone area.

- **OAKINGTON & WESTWICK**

Gas works from June to September, going ok, expected for reports that buses are not going through the village, working with CCC officers and Stagecoach to get the bus running through the village.

- Little Flames Childcare closed Oakington Pre-School in Easter 2024 because the low level of uptake and high costs was making it financially unsustainable.

Council officers considered what to do with the mobile building, which it leases from the Diocese of Ely and is subject to several restrictions on its use. Prior to Little Flames, another provider had operated the setting and had to close because of unsustainably low numbers. County Council Education Officers concluded that it was not practical to tender the building to other pre-school providers after two providers had been unable to sustain it, because of low numbers of pre-school-aged children in the local area and because there is alternative provision at Busy Bees Nursery School. Therefore, officers have concluded that the Council should withdraw from the lease and return the mobile classroom to the school for their use.

The Council's Strategic Assets Team is administering this process.

OVER

Various Highways works that come through pipelines that I am requesting more information:

- Proposed TTRO 24-1079 – proposed works on Over Road, Willingham
- Proposed TTROs - Works relating to 2025 Carriageway Pre-Surface Treatments, Surface Treatments and Post Surface Treatments (Surface Dressing, Gripfibre Micro Asphalt, Micro Asphalt and Handlay Micro Asphalt) for Glover Street (incl. Long Furlong – as it shows that on the Map) and Gravel Bridge Road (incl. Longstanton Road – as it shows that on the map)

FIRE AUTHORITY New chief fire officer recommended

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority Appointments Committee is recommending Matthew Warren as the new Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive Officer for Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, following the retirement of Chris Strickland. Matthew is currently Deputy Chief Executive for Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and has worked for the Service for over twenty years.

Matthew joined in 2003 as Head of Finance, before becoming Director of Resources in 2009 and Deputy Chief Executive in 2015. He will be recommended to the full Fire Authority when it meets on Thursday 20 June.

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

Tiger Bus Passes

Under 25s across the region are applying for their Free Tiger Bus Pass across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region. Combined Authority reported over 8,000 applications and over 7,000 cards printed as at mid-June.

Applications can be made using this link:

<https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/onepoundbusfare/>

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

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

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

[Report a highways fault - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

[Report a flood - www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/report-a-flood](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/report-a-flood)

NOTE: Homes England areas in Phase 2 Northstowe including South Access Road West and new B1050 roundabout – any estates or maintenance issues should be report to 24/7 helpdesk number 0845 603 1485. The number is manned 7 days per week 24 hours per day and all calls are placed in an auditable system to ensure matters are progressed.