

CLLR FIROUZ THOMPSON

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Preparing for Adulthood

Preparing for adulthood Young adults across Cambridgeshire with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), have helped design an event called Preparing for Adulthood, for 14 to 25-year-olds with SEND, as well as professionals, parents, and carers. The event will be an annual one, providing information and resources to empower young adults with SEND and their families and carers. Highlights include information sessions on job coaching advice, mental health and wellbeing, networking opportunities, and accessible information, as well as a range of fun activities.

Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion (COSMIC)

Domestic abuse survivors with learning difficulties

A campaign has been launched to find carers for people with learning disabilities who have experienced domestic abuse.

The initiative—the first of its kind in the country—is a joint scheme between Cambridgeshire Shared Lives and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership. Its aim is to recruit Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carers who will be self-employed with the scheme paying their fees. Carers can offer support just for a few hours in the daytime, for an overnight stay, or for an extended break.

sharedlivesplus.org.uk/scheme/cambridgeshire-shared-lives-scheme/Preparing

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Cllr Lorna Dupre, Chair of Environment & Green Investment Committee, attended a meeting of the Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee in late April. She reported that unusually a number of residents were present, for an item on the agenda scheduled for just ten minutes—dilapidation of sluices at St Ives and Brownhill Staunch, where some of the gates have had to be left stuck in the down position, affecting water levels. Government funding for maintenance isn't anywhere near enough—we were told that the Environment Agency received one-tenth of the funding they asked for from the Government.

Vape recycling

Vape recycling has been introduced at all of the council's Household Recycling Centres. The new bins offer a safe, environmentally friendly way for residents to dispose of single use and reusable vapes. These are taken to a facility where materials are separated and cleaned before being sent for recycling.

Anything containing batteries, including vapes, should never be placed in waste or recycling bins at home. Disposable vapes contain lithium-ion batteries which can catch fire if damaged. Three million vapes are currently thrown away each week across the UK, and research shows that electrical items including vapes disposed of in the wrong bin cause more than six hundred fires every year in refuse collection vehicles and at waste sites.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Gulleys found!

The joint administration of the County Council continues to turn round the highways failures of the previous incumbents. A report to the council’s Highways & Transport Committee on 30 April said, "through regular review of the road network, there [have] been a further 1,855 gulleys added to the programme which had not been previously plotted on the system".

Local Highways Improvement

The Local Highways Improvement panels have been going ahead over the last few weeks for the county, the results will be received by the Local Highways Improvement working group, and successful bids recommended to the council’s Highways & Transport Committee on 2 July.

Traffic Management Centre (TMC)

The TMC responded to 80 incidents on the road network throughout Cambridgeshire in March covering 20 weekdays. This is a decrease to February’s figure and that of March 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

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2022/23	88	207	140	167	138	132
2023/24	109	144	81	163	126	80

PLANNING (including consents)

Sunnica solar farm

The statutory deadline for the Secretary of State to decide the application for this huge solar farm stretching from Red Lodge to Burwell was moved on yet again, this time from Thursday 11 April to Thursday 20 June.

MEETINGS ATTENDED and COMMUNITY WORK 3 April to 12 May 2024

Local meetings:

Oakington & Westwick PC meeting (8 April), RAF Oakington Heritage – Royal Observer Core Post at former RAF Oakington (18 April), Over PC Annual meeting (22 April), Oakington & Westwick PC Annual meeting (22 April), Northstowe Town Council meeting (23 April), Northstowe Town Council Annual meeting (30 April), Community Engagement and Social Value Strategy for Northstowe update from Emma Drake on behalf of Homes England (2 May), Longstanton PC Annual meeting (9 May).

County Council meetings:

Monthly catch up with Tam Parry and Nigel Eggar (17 April). Thinking Place – Northstowe Place Making Narrative 121 on behalf of Homes England, County Council for conversation (17 April), Stagecoach MD – Darren Roe (19 April), Starship Robots (22 April). Garden Party at Buckingham Palace representing Cambridgeshire County Council (8 May).

Community work:

Thinking Place – Northstowe Place Making Steering Group Session 1 (18 April), Northstowe Market/Town Centre engagement (25 April).

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

Northstowe Foodies, Northstowe Mid Summer Festival meeting on 22 June – Food Trucks/Silent Disco. Volunteered at monthly market on Sunday 28 April.

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.

WARD NEWS

HIGHWAYS

New Local Team

Local Highways Officer: Sarad Budd – Please note new LHO joining 13 May 2024

Local Highways Officer: Aaron Boddington

Quarterly Highways meetings 2024 dates

Friday 12 July 12noon – 1.30pm

Friday 1 November 12noon – 1.30pm

Hatton Road works

Repairs continue for the works being carried out by L&Q Estates and they are going to construct three new Entrances into where the ponds areas. The works commenced 15/04/2024 and due to end 31 May and could include work on a Saturday morning. Details are on One Network <https://one.network/?GB138130168>. Traffic will be manual controlled 09.30 - 15.30 and removed at night replaced next day if needed. They will work their way down to the new roundabout constructing the other two entrances. Signage be for work starts. I have not seen much disruption to the traffic to date and there has been no report to me or on Facebook.

A14 Bar Hill roundabout repairs

TTRO 26-645 for the repairs took place this weekend, I am yet to be informed if they need to be continued next weekend 17 May. I will update social media when I receive further details.

Currently no further updates by village/town, due to Police & Crime Commissioner elections and Annual PC/TC meetings throughout April/May.

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

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<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.