

**LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLOR REPORT OCTOBER 2024**

**LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (4<sup>TH</sup> NOV 2024)**

**OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (11<sup>TH</sup> NOV 2024)**

**NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (26<sup>TH</sup> NOV 2024)**

**CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN**

**Date for your diary – Community Roadshows – 28<sup>th</sup> November, 6-7pm**

The community roadshow is an event to highlight how the South Cambs District Council Communities team works collaboratively with parish/town councils and community groups to meet local ambitions and develop resilient and responsive communities. There are 3 events. The nearest to Longstanton Ward is at Impington Village College on 28 November.

The roadshow will cover 3 topic areas - Vibrant Communities (including cost-of-living support, community safety and health and wellbeing), Community Action (including grants, climate and environment projects) and Growth. The talks will also involve guest speakers who have developed projects locally with the support of the Communities Team and an opportunity for a Q&A.

These events are intended for Councillors, Parishes, and voluntary sector groups.

To attend, please complete the sign-up sheet through Eventbrite.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location/time</b>	<b>Eventbrite link</b>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Linton Village Hall, 7-8pm.	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/linton-community-roadshow-tickets-1030034590187?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/linton-community-roadshow-tickets-1030034590187?aff=oddtcreator</a>
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Melbourn Hub, 6:30-7:30pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/melbourn-community-roadshow-tickets-1030026957357?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/melbourn-community-roadshow-tickets-1030026957357?aff=oddtcreator</a>
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Impington Village College, 6-7pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/impington-community-roadshow-tickets-1030029725637?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/impington-community-roadshow-tickets-1030029725637?aff=oddtcreator</a>

## Date for your diary – Climate Action Conference – 19<sup>th</sup> November, 11am to 3pm



South Cambs District Council is holding its second climate action conference on 19 November. The event is open to the public and welcomes members, **parish councils**, community groups, charities and interested individuals.

- Tuesday 19 November, 11am -3pm, at The Hub Community Centre, High Street, Cambourne, CB23 6GW.
- Join us for a day of workshops, engaging case studies and networking (finalised agenda to follow!)
- Refreshments and a plant-based lunch provided.
- We encourage you to consider sustainable travel options. Cambourne High Street is serviced by multiple bus routes (X3, 4, 18) and there is ample cycle storage onsite. The Hub has a carpark and overflow parking is available in Morrisons carpark (also owned by the Town Council).

Please RSVP by **Tuesday 5 November**. Follow [this link](#) to RSVP.

## Date for your diary – Climate Action Fair – 19th November, 5.30pm to 8pm

Following on from the Climate Action Conference is the Climate Action Fair also at the Hub Community Centre, Cambourne.

Do you want to know more about what is going on in the district to tackle climate change, and to protect and enhance nature? The Climate and Environment team are hosting SCDC's first Local Climate Action Fair on Tuesday 19 November, 5:30pm – 8pm at The Hub Community Centre in Cambourne. All ages welcome at this casual, marketplace style event:

- Meet local eco groups and charities
- Arts, crafts and activities
- Local vendors and food truck

The Fair is being held on the same day as our climate conference – feel free to come to both or come along for the evening if you can't make the day event.

## Grant opportunity – Improving the High Street

South Cambs District Council has launched a new grant scheme with £200,000 worth of grant funding available to support projects that boost the heart of communities across South Cambridgeshire.

Grants of between £5,000 to £20,000 per project are available to local businesses, charities, community groups and **Parish Councils** within the district.



The scheme aims to improve the look of our high streets, promote rejuvenation, encourage residents to shop locally and attract more local businesses to the area.

The grant scheme is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

More details can be found [here](#).

## Resident support – Tackling Period Poverty

South Cambs District Council is joining the fight to end period poverty by providing free menstrual products for up to 700 residents. Councillors unanimously agreed to champion the cause, to ensure dignity for all, by offering free sanitary products which are also kind to the environment. A funding pot of £12,000 has been agreed for the project, which will offer residents a choice of one of three period product packs - either washable pads, period pants or reusable period cups. Hey Girls, a UK-wide social enterprise, will be distributing the packs. Residents can apply using this [link](#). The scheme will run on a 'first come, first served' basis.

## Local Plan – Local Plan timetable

The updated timetable for the Local Plan can be found [here](#). This Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme Updated Addendum provides an update regarding the Local Plan Timetable and supersedes the previous Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme Addendum published in March 2024.

Authorities are required to prepare a Local Plan Timetable that identifies the expected timings for the production of new or revised development plan documents that set out the planning policy framework for Greater Cambridge.

## Recycling Cables

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service is working with Recycle Your Electricals to encourage Cambridgeshire residents to participate in The Great Cable Challenge – a nationwide campaign aimed at tackling the millions of cables sitting idle across UK households. The initiative is part of this year's International E-Waste Day.

The challenge aims to give a second life to the valuable materials contained in cables, such as copper. Copper can be recycled into new items such as wind turbines and new tech such as mobile phones, laptops, tablets or smart watches.

With millions of cables cluttering up UK homes, Recycle Your Electricals have published a handy Cable Guide. With 35 of the most used cables, the guide provides easy to use visuals to match cables to their original electricals. If the electricals or the cables are no longer working or they aren't needed anymore, simply bag up your cables and recycle them! For your local points for recycling cables follow this [link](#).

## **South Cambs Connect.**

Making use of the ground floor at South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), regional businesses, entrepreneurs, community groups and charities are being invited to Cambourne to try a new collaborative working space - free of charge until the new year!

SCDC has redesigned its head office ground floor with a vibrant, collaborative workspace for use by business professionals. Called South Cambs Connect the space has comfortable workstations, high-speed Wi-Fi, meeting pods and bookable meeting rooms which offer a productive spot to work, a meeting venue, and a chance to network with other local professionals. There is plenty of free car parking available including EV charging. For more details email: [southcambsconnect@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:southcambsconnect@scambs.gov.uk)

## **Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document**

SCDC will be making decisions soon on whether to adopt planning guidance that embeds Health and Wellbeing into all new developments. New town and new housing developments can, if well designed, really make a positive difference to people's health and wellbeing. Northstowe, for example, includes outdoor fitness equipment, lots of cycle and walks ways, and really beautifully designed green and blue spaces so is being used as an example of a New Town with Health and Wellbeing integral to its development.

## **Empty Properties**

SCDC will soon agree a new policy on Council Tax Changes for empty properties. This is to encourage owners to get empty homes back into use. Homes empty up to 2 years will pay 100% Council Tax; empty up to 5 years it result in a 200% levy and up to and over 10 years it will be 300%. One year's notice will be given of an increase. SCDC currently has about 300 empty properties; 84 of which have been empty for over 10 years.

## **YEARNING FOR YOUR COUNCIL MEETINGS ON ZOOM AGAIN?**

The Government has just launched a consultation on whether or not to allow councillors (county, district, or parish) to attend and vote remotely at council meetings. The consultation opened yesterday for eight weeks, and can be found [here](#)

## **By Election**

Congratulations to LibDem James Rixon who retained the Histon and Impington seat on the District Council winning with a 325-vote majority. The by-election was called following Pippa Heyling's resignation as a district councillor, so that she can focus on her work as an MP.

## **Peer Review of South Cambs District Council**

A follow-up report by the Local Government Association has praised South Cambridgeshire District Council's 'strong ambition', 'good leadership' and 'innovative approaches' following a recent visit.

The return visit comes after a Corporate Peer Challenge Review by the LGA last year described the Council as being in a positive financial position – with a comprehensive and innovative response to the cost-of-living crisis. Typically, all councils have one of these reviews every five years and they always contain recommendations to help councils improve.

A total of 12 recommendations were made by the peer team last year. A return visit last month and update report, a usual part of the Corporate Peer Challenge process, shows how 10 of those recommendations are completed or well underway and two are progressing.

In Finance, peers had recommended the Council accelerates the closure of its outstanding accounts. Since their visit in late 2023, the draft accounts for each and every year up to 2023/24 have been published – meaning they are as up to date as possible. Meanwhile, a scheme to uncover further savings by close working

between members of the Council's Leadership Team and service areas has identified a further £1.5 million to help meet a £3 million savings target over the next five years.

Peers had also suggested the need to better convey a vision for South Cambridgeshire. To address this, the Council is now part-way through a consultation to develop a new Corporate Plan, outlining that vision, priorities, and long-term goals for South Cambridgeshire in the years ahead. The Council's business team have visited local businesses to discuss matters impacting them - obtaining 100 completed surveys that are feeding into the consultation.

Peers have highlighted how communications have improved to parish and town councils following discussions with parish clerks, whilst the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service with Cambridge City Council hosted an event titled 'Unlocking the Potential of Your Parish'. This was aimed at equipping Parish and Town Clerks with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to navigate planning processes and effectively support their communities. The feedback report also notes that an informal reference group has been established for parishes along the proposed East West Rail route, to ensure their concerns are identified and incorporated into the planning consultation process.

### **New Mobile Warden Scheme Funding**

A total of £345,000 has been pledged to Mobile Warden Schemes in South Cambridgeshire for the next three years to help more elderly people stay living in their own homes for longer. The pledge comes after the District Council partnered with Rose Regeneration to undertake an in-depth review of local schemes to understand more about how much it costs to run them and help them become more sustainable in the future.

The District Council has traditionally had an annual budget of £21,000 to support schemes but invested around £300,000 to try and increase the coverage of the service in South Cambridgeshire communities by supporting new schemes to develop.

The review is important as it has taken into consideration predicted high growth in over 65-year-olds over the next 20 years and recognises that with age comes increased risk of deteriorating health, loneliness, and feelings of isolation. Councillors have backed a new three-year funding scheme that starts from April 2025. The funding was approved in the District Council's recent Cabinet meeting. It ensures funding is in place for existing schemes as well as providing funding for new or expanding schemes so that more residents can be reached. The review and ongoing work has also set out a longer term 10-year plan so schemes will not need to rely so heavily on District Council funding.

### **Business Support Grants**

Seven community and business projects are set to share grants of more than £360,000 to help boost rural life in South Cambridgeshire. The projects include creating activity space at a community centre, improved accessibility at an arts centre and refurbishment of local tennis courts. The latest round of grants takes it to a total of 26 projects in the district to receive money from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), aimed at supporting rural communities and businesses in building long-term resilience. You'll find more on business support grants [here](#).

### **AI to Improve Planning Performance**

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, a shared service between South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City councils, is pioneering the development of a new AI tool to improve how public feedback on planning policies is reviewed and analysed. Funded through the Government's PropTech Innovation Fund, this project aims to use AI to transform the way communities engage in the planning system. Developed in partnership with the University of Liverpool, the AI tool - known as a Large Language Model (LLM) - is being specifically designed to process and summarise the thousands of comments that residents, community groups and other stakeholders submit during consultations.

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

Cllr Natalie Warren-Green for Longstanton Ward including Longstanton, Northstowe, and Oakington & Westwick

Email: [cllr.warrengreen@scamb.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.warrengreen@scamb.gov.uk)

For those on social media we have a highly active Facebook group:

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

## District Councillor's Report Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 - Cllr Tom Bygott

### **Save the Winter Fuel Payment**

My group colleagues and I are fighting to save the Winter Fuel Payment for vulnerable pensioners that is currently under threat from the new government. In October's council meeting, all councillors unanimously supported our joint motion to sign Age UK's petition at <https://campaigns.ageuk.org.uk/page/154268/petition/1> to save the payment and to raise awareness of pension credit support.

Age UK research suggests that 2 million pensioners who badly need the support to stay warm this winter will no longer receive the Winter Fuel Payment. With the Energy Price Cap due to rise by 10% in October, the physical and mental health of elderly people in the UK is threatened.

We are continuing to work to raise awareness of this issue, including signing a joint letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to urge a review of this decision and to protect pensioners at risk of fuel poverty.

### **Four-day week update**

Despite the four-day week trial ending in March 2024, the council is continuing to work four days a week for five days' pay. The Best Value Notice remains in place until November, when the new Labour government will decide whether to reissue the notice or to endorse charging taxpayers for five days' worth of work when they are only getting four.

It is my understanding that a public consultation on the four-day week will happen at a postponed date of January 2025 – two years after the four-day week trial first began. When this consultation is live, I would encourage all residents to make your voice heard on this significant issue.

I strongly believe that, in these uncertain times, we require more support from our local councils – not less. We are continuing to scrutinise the weekly data and council performance to ensure the four-day week does not jeopardise services for residents.

### **Water authorities attend council Scrutiny meeting**

We were grateful for the opportunity to welcome flood management representatives from Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, and from Cambridgeshire County and South Cambridgeshire District Councils to the council's October Scrutiny and Overview committee meeting chaired by Cllr Graham Cone, Deputy Leader of my group and local member for the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward.

The meeting provided a useful forum for councillors to raise residents' specific concerns, including recent flooding in South Cambridgeshire, the impact of new housing developments on water supply and management, and improving communication between communities and the water authorities.

Given recent heavy rainfall, we are encouraging residents to be vigilant about any flooding risk. In an emergency where there is an imminent risk to life, you should call 999. In the event of flooding on the roads, pavement, garden or property, or from sewers or watercourses, please report the issue to Cambridgeshire County Council online at [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).

### **Supporting Prostate Cancer UK and period poverty**

In October's council meeting, my group's motion to support Prostate Cancer UK's BOG STANDARD campaign was unanimously supported by all councillors. The campaign seeks to help men who have suffered from prostate cancer by providing incontinence products and discreet disposal bins in male toilets.

You can find out more about Prostate Cancer UK's campaign in partnership with phs at <https://prostatecanceruk.org/about-us/news-and-views/2024/08/men-with-incontinence-missing-out>.

In February's council meeting, my group's motion to tackle period poverty was also unanimously supported by all councillors. We are pleased that the council has since taken swift action to secure a £12,000 grant in partnership with Hey Girls to distribute environmentally friendly menstrual products for up to 700 South Cambridgeshire residents.

Residents can apply at [www.heygirls.co.uk/south-cambridgeshire-home-packs/](http://www.heygirls.co.uk/south-cambridgeshire-home-packs/) for a home delivery of free period products. The eligibility criteria are outlined on the Hey Girls webpage.

## **Awaiting planning policy from Government**

We are still awaiting the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) from the new national government. It is frustrating and challenging that this has not yet been decided, particularly as this plan will have a significant impact on South Cambridgeshire.

My group will ensure that residents are updated when the new NPPF is issued. We understand that many residents will be concerned about the new government's housebuilding plans, especially in our area, and we encourage you to get in touch if you have any concerns.

## **Supporting older people in their homes**

I am pleased to see the council pledge £345,000 to Mobile Warden Schemes in South Cambridgeshire for the next three years to help more elderly people stay living in their own homes for longer. It is disappointing, however, that the administration is phasing out support for this vital service over the next ten years. My group will continue to scrutinise this decision and work to support South Cambridgeshire communities in every way we can.

There are currently 16 active Mobile Warden Schemes in 49 parishes, many of which are run by the charity AGE UK. Mobile Warden Schemes are a community lifeline for many, providing reassurance for families that their loved ones are cared for at home.

Please do not suffer at home alone. You can find the contact information for all Mobile Warden Schemes in South Cambridgeshire on the council's webpage at [www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/mobilecommunity-warden-scheme](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/mobilecommunity-warden-scheme).

## **White Ribbon Accreditation**

I support the council's White Ribbon Accreditation, working with White Ribbon UK to work to prevent harassment, abuse, and violence against women and girls.

It is vital to make our workplace and communities safe for everybody. I will continue to support the council's work to raise awareness for this important campaign and support the efforts of council staff to advocate positive attitudes within South Cambridgeshire.

Cllr Tom Bygott  
cllr@bygott.net  
07765 475 513