

LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT SEPT 2025

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (SEPT 2025)

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (8TH SEPT 2025)

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (23RD SEPT 2025)

CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

I hope everyone managed to have some time off in August and enjoyed the sunshine. Casework was lighter than usual although some residents still required support from me and were helped as required by council officers, and I was also pleased to see some grant applications go in from Ward Community Groups which I was happy to support.

This report is lighter than many due to the break and if any new updates emerge, I'll email them to you.

South Cambs response to the draft Statement of Community Consultation for the proposed Kingsway Solar Project (PINS Ref: EN010165)

Of interest to our entire region, the Kingsway Solar Project plans to build the UK's biggest solar farm on land to the southeast of the A11 between Six Mile Bottom and the Roman Road. As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), the Applicant has advised that the Development Consent Order (DCO) application should be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for the Secretary of State to consider in Spring 2026 with the Examination in Public anticipated in 2027.

Section 47 of the planning Act 2008 requires the Applicant to prepare a SoCC setting out how it intends to consult the local community, and to carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in that statement. South Cambs as one of the two Local planning Authorities (the other being East Cambs) is required, in due course, to provide PINS with an Adequacy of Consultation Representation (AoC) under Section 55 of the Act, confirming whether it considers the Applicant has complied with their statutory consultation duties. Having reviewed the draft SoCC, the Council has identified a number of concerns which prevent it from being able to meaningfully assess its adequacy.

Therefore, the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service is writing to PINS requesting that the final SoCC includes:

- A clear timetable, including the proposed start and end dates of the statutory consultation.
- Confirmation of the venues to be used for community events, with details of contingency arrangements if venues are unavailable.
- Sufficient detail on how the Applicant will engage the community to ensure compliance with Section 47(7)

A landmark year of housing achievements in South Cambridgeshire

An £8.2 million government grant has been secured to retrofit social housing in South Cambs, cutting carbon emissions and tackling fuel poverty by making homes warmer and cheaper to heat. The news comes amid a list of achievements for the district's Housing Team in the last year - with funding now increased to £19 million to support energy efficiency upgrades for 610 homes across

South Cambridgeshire. The remaining funding is being provided through the Council's Housing Revenue Account, which is supported by rental income from tenants.

Other achievements include delivering 58 new council homes for affordable rent, 10 for shared ownership, and 11 for temporary accommodation. In all, 525 affordable homes were built in South Cambs in partnership with housing providers and developers. South Cambs is now building more homes than it is losing through Right to Buy. In addition, the Housing Team achieved a 62% success rate in interventions that prevented homelessness for 278 individuals and families in 2024/25.

Government decision not to fund Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant relocation

The Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) has confirmed that funding from the Housing Infrastructure Fund will not be made available to support the delivery of Anglian Water's Waste Water Treatment Plant relocation from the current site on Cowley Road in north east Cambridge. As a result, the relocation of the existing Water Treatment Works is no longer viable.

The decision follows costs of the relocation increasing significantly because of rising costs of materials and labour and disruption to global supply chains, an increase that MHCLG said was unaffordable. As a result of this decision, Cambridge City Council and Anglian Water's proposals for the new 'Hartree' development on the current site, which would form the heart of a proposed new district in North East Cambridge, will not be able to be delivered. The Local Authorities will now be exploring with key stakeholders including the Cambridge Growth Company the future role and opportunities within the North East Cambridge area to deliver the much needed affordable homes that were to be built on the current Water Treatment Works site.

I will monitor discussions and decisions for impacts on our Ward.

Reminder to complete the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation survey

You are invited to give your thoughts on the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. **The consultation remains live until 11 September 2025.** Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a new system of spatial strategies intended to reverse biodiversity loss in England and deliver wider environmental benefits. Across the country, 48 local strategies are in development or delivery. Your local knowledge is essential to inform and improve the LNRS for our region. As indicated previously, you can complete the survey here:

<https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lhrs/consultation/>

Our Member of Parliament

Ian.Sollom.MP@parliament.uk Ian is active across the constituency, and continues to hold regular surgeries which we will keep you informed of for residents. His office staff answer emails as soon as practically possible. He welcomes correspondence from residents requiring his assistance.

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.

County Council

Responsibilities: Education, Transport, Highways, Heritage, Social care, Libraries, Trading standards, - Waste management, Maintaining their estate.

Some of these services are shared between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council but any concerns should be directed to the county council.

District Council

Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning.

Parish/ Town Council

Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Open spaces, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters.

Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)

'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.'

Partnership between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, University of Cambridge.

The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor

'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.'

What our mayor does – Business support, skills, housing, transport, environment, international, digital connectivity, resilience, research, and strategy. New homes.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge and Peterborough

To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

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.

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@scambs.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 Sept 8th 2025 - Cllr Tom Bygott

Government withdraws funding for Honey Hill wastewater plant

The Government has withdrawn financial support for moving Anglian Water's wastewater treatment works from Cowley Road, north-east Cambridge, to a new site at Honey Hill. The relocation had been a central part of the "Hartree" development plans, which aimed to build a new district of more than 8,500 homes, along with schools, health facilities, community spaces and extensive green areas.

Funding had originally been allocated through the Housing Infrastructure Fund, but costs escalated sharply due to rising material and labour prices, alongside global supply chain disruption. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government determined that the higher price tag was unaffordable, and therefore cancelled the contribution.

Although a Development Consent Order for the relocation was granted in April 2025, the scheme is now unlikely to proceed. Local authorities will need to reassess options for North East Cambridge, which remains one of the last large brownfield areas of the city. The decision raises uncertainty about how Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire can meet future housing demand.

Further details can be found on Cambridge City Council's website:

www.cambridge.gov.uk/news/2025/08/15/government-decision-not-to-fund-cambridge-waste-water-treatment-plant-relocation

Consultation reopens on planning obligations document

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning has launched a new consultation on its draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) concerning planning obligations, commonly referred to as Section 106 contributions. These obligations are the mechanisms by which developers contribute towards mitigating the impacts of their projects on local infrastructure and communities.

The updated draft takes into account feedback from the first consultation held between November 2024 and January 2025. It provides detailed guidance on when obligations will apply, and what they may include. Examples are the delivery of affordable housing, improvements to transport networks such as cycle paths or bus services, and measures to protect nature and biodiversity.

Once finalised, the SPD will replace earlier guidance and support policies in the current Local Plans. It will apply to both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire, ensuring a consistent framework for development.

Residents and stakeholders can comment until 17 October 2025. The document and submission details are available at: <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/spd>

Investment approved to safeguard the River Cam

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Funding Committee has backed a plan to spend £500,000 on urgent works at Baits Bite Lock on the River Cam. A recent survey identified that the lock is at risk of structural failure. If left unchecked, this could threaten river safety, water levels, flood control, and the enjoyment of thousands of residents, students and visitors who use the river.

The funding will allow the Cam Conservators to carry out stabilisation work, preventing immediate risks while longer-term options are assessed for both Baits Bite and the nearby Jesus Lock, which faces similar challenges. Protecting this infrastructure is vital for maintaining navigation along the Cam and preserving one of Cambridge's most important environmental and recreational assets.

The project is part of the Combined Authority's allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Final approval will be considered by the Authority's Board on 24 September 2025.

Consultation on Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Residents are invited to contribute to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This new system of spatial strategies is intended to tackle biodiversity decline and deliver wider environmental improvements.

The LNRS will identify priorities for conservation and opportunities to enhance nature across the county. Local knowledge is essential to ensure that plans reflect the needs and opportunities of each community.

The consultation is open until 11 September 2025. The survey can be completed online via: <https://consult.cambspbboro-lnrs.gov.uk>

Memorial Grant Scheme – guidance updated

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has updated its guidance on applying for grants to reclaim VAT on the construction, repair or maintenance of public memorials. The scheme applies to memorials across the UK and, in some cases, overseas.

The next deadline for applications is 30 September 2025. Guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/applying-for-a-memorial-grant>
Enquiries can be directed to grants@memorialgrant.org.uk

Northstowe occupation update

There are now 1,750 houses in Northstowe, 1,651 are new builds. Of these, 188 are in Phase 2 and the remainder on Phase 1.

New waste and recycling website launched

A new dedicated website for waste and recycling across Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire has been launched to improve services for both households and businesses.

Key milestones:

- **Soft launch:** 2 September 2025 – the new site is live alongside existing webpages, accessible at www.greatercambridgewaste.org
- **Full launch:** 16 September 2025 – all council waste pages will redirect to the new platform, including commercial waste services at www.greatercambridgewaste.org/business

The website aims to provide a single, user-friendly hub for bin collections, recycling information and commercial waste services. Feedback on the site's functionality can be sent to engage@scambs.gov.uk

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