

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

LONGSTANTON WARD

COVERING LONGSTANTON, NORTHSTOWE, OAKINGTON & WESTWICK

DECEMBER 2021

CLLR SARAH CHEUNG JOHNSON, CLLR ALEX MALYON – DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

DISTRICT COUNCIL STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to announce that two new community development officers have been recruited for Northstowe. Kathryn Beck has been appointed to the role of Community Development Officer, to welcome and support those moving into Phase 2 Northstowe and will be joining us in January. Kathryn previously worked for BPHA.

We will be saying farewell to Jon London (Jon Northstowe) in the new year, and a warm welcome before Christmas to Miheala Stan (Mihaela Northstowe), who will be taking over from Jon.

The new team members will be introducing themselves at the next Northstowe Community Forum, January 12.

As you may know, Chris Carter sadly left the Council for a role in the private sector at the same time as our Northstowe Principal Planner, Andrew Thompson. Philippa Kelly is Chris's replacement.

The recruitment process is currently being undertaken for a new Northstowe lead permanent principal planner. Because the permanent replacement for Andrew may take some time to get in place (should no one be identified internally), the council have secured a temporary agency principal planner lead, Paul Ricketts, who will start with us on 3 January. Paul will provide cover over the period until we have a permanent replacement in post. This will include attending the Planning Committee meeting when the Northstowe Phase 3 applications are reported in January. The date for this is to TBC but currently looking like the end of January.

In addition, we have two senior planners starting in the Strategic Sites Team in early January. One of these will be focusing on providing support on Northstowe, working with the principal planner lead.

Finally, we are about to advertise for a 12-month contract for a Strategic Sites programme manager role who would spend some of their time supporting the Northstowe project, particularly in relation to coordination on infrastructure delivery.

NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY FORUM

The next Northstowe Community Forum will take place on 12th January 2022.

Notes from the Forum 13 October 2021 will be updated here <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/community-development/northstowe-community-forum/>

APPROVAL OF ENDURANCE ESTATES PLANNING APPLICATION

At the November meeting of the planning committee approval was given for the outline planning application for the demolition of a house and associated buildings, to be replaced with up to 107 homes, and employment / community / café / development on land west of Station Road (adjacent to the current Bloor homes and Northstowe Phase 3b) by Endurance Estates Land Promotion Ltd and Longstanton Parish Council, the trustees of the Charity Allotments for Public Stone, Gravel, and Clay Pits.

APPROVAL FOR PLANS FOR THE SPORT PAVILION

Detailed plans for a sports pavilion and changing facilities for Northstowe, drawn-up by South Cambridgeshire District Council, have been approved.

At the meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee on Wednesday 10 November 2021, a planning application that sets out the access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale for the new pavilion, was approved. The plans also include a club room for community use and events. Residents have fed into the building's design via the Council's Northstowe Community Forum. The planning application was supported by Northstowe Town Council, Longstanton Parish Council and by us as District Councillors.

The new pavilion will be constructed around the edge of the bowling green at the Northstowe Western Park. It will provide local sports teams with six changing rooms, changing facilities for sports officials, a kitchen, clubroom, reception and office space, a kitchen, and toilets.

An air source heat pump will be installed to provide heating and hot water for the building, which will have energy efficient LED lighting. Conduits to allow the future installation of Electric Vehicle charging points in the car park will be installed during construction. There will be solar panels on the roof and bird or bat boxes within the walls.

£1.1 million in funding to construct the pavilion was secured by South Cambridgeshire District Council from developers L&Q Estates. Additional costs to further boost the quality of the building, and make it environmentally friendly, are being met by the Council.

The application was brought to the Planning Committee to determine because the District Council is the applicant.

The council expects to tender for a construction partner in the coming weeks. Once a construction partner is in place and on site we will have a more accurate picture of timescales, currently the programme proposes that our construction partner will start on site April 2022 with completion in Spring 2023 (we are mindful of currently issues regarding material and labour shortages which are causing delays in construction projects).

We have been asked for clarification regarding EV charging points, the construction specification will include a number of these, and that ducting will be provided for additional units that may be installed later. There are a number of reasons to keep this to a "minimum" at this stage: -

- 1) Demand (for EV charging at the Pavilion) has not been established
- 2) Future governance has not been established
- 3) The financial sum received from L&Q (S106 monies) is considerably short of the amount required to deliver the sports pavilion. As SCDC will be picking-up the shortfall we were/are required to value engineer the scheme to deliver best value. This could still be changed (without recourse to planning).

PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR NORTHSTOWE PHASE 3A AND 3B

The proposals for Northstowe Phase 3A and 3B, were due to go to Planning Committee before Christmas but that was postponed until January, date TBC. All those who commented on the original application should receive an updated invitation to speak to the committee. If you have received this and would like to make representations at the meeting you are requested to contact: democratic.services@scams.gov.uk Members of the public wishing to speak at this meeting are requested to contact the Support Officer by no later than 4pm two clear working days before the meeting. Written statements can also be submitted if you are unable to attend the meeting.

We will be speaking to object to these proposals, echoing Oakington Parish Council concerns over flood alleviation, adequate green separation, and the Southern Access Road East and concerns from Northstowe and Longstanton residents on highways and access for Phase 3B.

DOG BINS

We have received reports from residents about dog bins in Northstowe by the Western Park that are overflowing - we have reported this to Greenbelt.

Going forwards all residents can report this to their customer care email: customercare@greenbelt.co.uk

Any issues with bins in other areas which are SCDC responsibility can be reported via the SCDC website.

Please could we ask dog owners to take their rubbish home with them if they see the dog bins are overflowing like this, just as a courtesy to fellow users in the communal green spaces. Bagged dog poo can be placed in the black bin.

DISTRICT WIDE NEWS

LOCAL PLAN FIRST PROPOSALS CONSULTATION CLOSING.

A reminder that the Local Plan consultation runs until 5pm on Monday 13 December 2021. Visit the Greater Cambridge Planning website for more details, including online and in-person events.
<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan>

COUNCIL SERVICES TO SUPPORT PEOPLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

Residents and local community groups may like to know about a few Council services that are in place to support people to live independently at home, to keep connected and to know that someone will regularly be in touch with them or on the end of the phone if they need some practical help.

South Cambs' Visiting Support Service is free for people over the age of 65, with a short-term focus to support people in their home – perhaps someone recovering from an operation, or who will be on their own for a short period of time, or who is having an unexpected crisis. The Community Warden Service is longer-term, and a nominal fee is payable; clients can be of any age, and the wardens will ring up or visit on a regular basis, and can help with tasks such as form-filling, picking up some essentials from the shop, or just being a friendly face. The Community Lifeline Service (under £4.50/week) provides a worn pendant that individuals of any age can press in an emergency, such as if they have a fall at home on their own. You can find out more about all these services on our website:

www.scambs.gov.uk/visitingsupportservice

www.scambs.gov.uk/mobilewardenscheme

www.scambs.gov.uk/lifelines

We have produced some leaflets and posters to raise awareness of these services-attached are samples. If you would like some leaflets or a few posters to display, please email Lesley.McFarlane@Scambs.gov.uk.

SOUTH CAMBS CHRISTMAS MARKET

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather the Christmas market had to be cancelled. The Business Team at South Cambs are looking to support those businesses that we affected by this cancellation.

NORTHEAST CAMBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT

Proposals for a low carbon development at Northeast Cambridge have been revised following a major consultation last year, taking on board thousands of comments made by residents and businesses.

The Northeast Cambridge Area Action Plan, a new planning policy document for the area either side of Milton Road, will now be scrutinised by councillors, who will consider whether it can be published for the next and final round of public consultation.

Northeast Cambridge includes 182 hectares of brownfield land and is a 15-minute cycle ride from Cambridge city centre and has good public transport. Funding from central government's Housing Infrastructure Fund to relocate the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant enables a once-in-a-

generation opportunity to transform the area and create a significant new city district for 8,350 new homes and 15,000 additional jobs with supporting facilities and open space.

Significant changes to the Area Action Plan have been made following public consultation last year. These include:

Building heights have been reduced to four to six storeys generally, with a maximum height of ten storeys. This is a reduction from the proposals in the Draft Area Action Plan, which proposed five to eight storeys generally with a maximum of 13 storeys.

Housing densities have reduced across the Area Action Plan area. The average density across the housing areas of the site is now around 100 dwellings per hectare, similar to other developments like Eddington. The densities range from 70 homes per hectare around the edges of the area up to 300 homes per hectare in the District Centre.

The amount of commercial (office) floorspace has been reduced by 25% to improve the balance between homes and jobs and to help reduce traffic around the area, whilst the requirement for there to be no overall loss in industrial space remains.

The amount of open space provision across the Area Action Plan area now meets the Cambridge City Council informal and children's play standards in full within the area. The amount of new public open space has increased from 10.4 hectares to 27.6 hectares, and all homes will be within a five-minute walk of an open space.

The requirement to increase biodiversity overall (biodiversity net gain) has now increased from 10% to 20% in line with the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan policy proposals. The policy notes that achieving this fully on-site may be challenging due to the higher density nature of the site, so will be considered on a case-by-case basis and at least 10% net gain should be on-site. 20% is double the biodiversity net gain now required under the recently passed Environment Act.

There will be more shops and community facilities, with an additional local centre to ensure all homes are within a five-minute walk of a Local or District Centre to meet the daily needs of those living and working in the area.

ELECTRICAL RECYCLING

Eight new points where residents can recycle small electrical items are set to be installed across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste, a partnership between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, has secured new funding for additional collection banks where residents can drop off small household electricals like kettles and toasters.

Cambridge already has some collection banks in new housing developments in Trumpington, but the extra funding will allow Greater Cambridge Shared Waste to provide more banks across the area, bringing e-recycling closer to more people's homes. Work has begun to identify where these new collection banks will be.

Electrical items cannot be put into residents' recycling bins, and with Cambridgeshire households throwing an average of 2.6kg of electrical items away in their black bins each year, this adds up to around 320 tonnes of e-waste which could have been recycled. According to Recycle Now, if electrical items end up in landfill, hazardous substances will leak out and cause soil and water contamination – harming wildlife and even human health.

The banks are suitable for collecting most small items which have a plug or a battery, including phones, toys, kettles and many more.

The £50,000 funding for the new recycling banks comes from retailers which do not offer their own take-back schemes for waste electricals, as a way of complying with the Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations, through an organisation called Valpak.

The unwanted small appliances will be sorted for re-use and recycling by specialist company. Items that are undamaged, uncontaminated, and repairable may be suitable for re-use within the UK. The refurbished small appliances can be comprehensively tested to ensure that they are safe and functional. Items that are unsuitable for re-use will get dismantled into component parts. Many of those components are also suitable for re-use. For example, screens from broken monitors or power units from laptops. Items that fail the re-use screening are sent to local and national specialist operators who will recycle those items into new substances or products.

NEW EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY CONSULTATION

There is a new Empty homes Strategy out for consultation. The objective here is to bring empty properties back into use and reduce the number of long-term empty homes.

<https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/documents/s124895/Appendix%20A%20-%20Empty%20Homes%20Strategy%202021-25.pdf>

NEW GOLDEN NUMBER

South Cambs DC has introduced a single Golden Number to be used to contact the council. This should help you to be able to talk to the best person within the council more effectively. We have also introduced a call back facility so that you don't have to hang on the phone during busy periods. The number is: 01954 713000.

FINANCE UPDATES

Investment Strategy

There is an updated Investment Strategy at S Cambs. Policy remains to generate 20% of income from investment by 2025 to minimise need to raise Council tax.

<https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/documents/s124977/Appendix%20A%20-%20Investment%20Strategy%20-%20Draft%20December%202021.pdf>

Capital Strategy

The Council has updated the Capital spending programme

<https://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s124924/Appendix%20A%20-%20Capital%20Projects%20Performance%20-%202020%202021%20Projects.pdf>

Fees & Charges

There is an updated schedule of fees and charges for 2022/23

<https://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s124979/Fees%20Charges%20-%20Report%20to%20Cabinet.pdf>

GREATER CAMBRIDGESHIRE PARTNERSHIP – MAKING CONNECTIONS CONSULTATION

Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership consultation on bus services. We would strongly encourage residents to submit comments to consultation will includes proposed changes to our local services.

We need a better public transport system to ensure that most people have a quicker, more convenient, and reliable journey than by car. It is extremely important that everyone has their say.

Please take time to fill out the survey, there is a map available for St Ives corridor map which includes Northstowe, Longstanton and Oakington.

The consultation closes at midday on Monday 20 December 2021

Details included are:

- Quicker, more frequent rural and city bus services
- Extended bus operating hours
- Making Greater Cambridge a better place to live and travel in and around more easily
- Simplified bus routes
- Shorter journey times
- New services linking buses into the core network
- Improved walking and cycling facilities to connect to buses
- The different ways this could be funded

Check out the #MakingConnections proposals in more detail and share your thoughts <https://tinyurl.com/yb4jea5v>

HIGHWAY

GULLEY MAINTENANCE: Since being elected in May, the Joint Administration have been looking into solutions for maintaining our gulley system, to mitigate the risk of flooding in our communities. As we did not have a record of all our gullies, we invested in a data driven approach and invested in a new system called KaarbonTech Asset Management, which is being used across the country by many councils and leading construction companies. In September we started the process of recording while cleaning each gully, due to a lack of maintenance over the years the gullies have taken longer to clean. We have to date cleaned 45,000 gullies out of what we believe is around 100,000. In October and November, we cleaned the villages of Longstanton, Oakington and Over – Westwick is yet to be cleaned. A report will follow to each Parish Councils in due course.

HIGHWAYS QUARTERLY MEETING: Next planned meeting will be held in January; I will contact the clerks to arrange the next date.

OAKINGTON

PHASE 2 CAMBRIDGE ROAD SHARED-USE FOOD PATH: Following the October Parish Council meeting, comments were shared on the design concept with Susan Rooke, CCC officer. Next steps to be confirmed.

A14 LEGACY FUN OAKINGTON SPEED BUMPS: Following meetings on site with members of the Parish Council (PC), the revised design including the additional items request by PC is awaiting a Road Safety Audit (RSA, currently these are taking between 6 and 8 weeks and so we expect a response in November. As the scope has increased this will be beyond the budget available how much is yet to be confirmed, so there will need to be some omissions to bring this within budget. This process will be better informed after the RSA which may recommend additional changes. There will also be a formal consultation for the new/amended speed cushions/humps best completed after the RSA is back. We are currently still on schedule to deliver Procurement November-December, Construction March 2022.

WESTWICK DRAINAGE in water course, flaps to the pipes have been damaged, one out of 3 valves have been replaced, the other valves are on order and will be replaced once we have had delivery.

ENTRANCE TO THE DRIFT: it has been reported that the path on this entrance has been damaged by the Sugar beet lorries, Highways officers will be assessing the area.

LONGSTANTON ROAD: As we prepare for the South Access Road West to be completed in February, questions have been raised about a sign that has been erected, located just to the south/ease of where

the SARW crosses Longstanton Road. I understand that the signage is subject to final Road Safety Audits, which may or may not conclude alternative findings.

Northstowe Phase 2 - Flood Attenuation on Oakington Brook: CCC to investigate and take a considered view after speaking to both Environmental Agency and SCDC.

A14 Flooding around Oakington: CCC to investigate and raise the concerns with Environmental Agency, it was noted that flooding is also happening around Fenstanton. A recent meeting took place with National Highways (Highways England) which various points around the A14 has been raised including the flooding and trees, we are awaiting details of the discussions.

Water Lane gully repair reported by Highways that the willow tree is causing subterranean damage to the drains: CCC to report back.

Update on Council action regarding damaged culvert under Longstanton Road, near shop: CCC to investigate.

The piped ditch outflow (Girton side) to the main river by the bridge on Gatehouse Rd (New Rd) is completely blocked causing flooding. This has been reported via Highways online, but the riparian owner appears to have taken no action to resolve it yet. ReportIt no. 379479: CCC to report back.

Clarification of proposals for reconstruction of the footpath in Westwick. Currently with Local Highways team and budget not available. Parish Council to provide a case for funding this footpath and share with CCC.

NORTHSTOWE

B1050 NORTHSTOWE: I am liaising with the County officers to understand the extent of accidents over the last 4 years on Station Road (B1050) and entrance to Bloor Homes, the two recent accidents within weeks of each other at this junction has been concerning. I would like to request that Northstowe Town Council provides the speeding data from the speed camera that we have in place, to share with the County Officers.

PATHS TO NORTHSTOWE SECONDARY COLLEGE (NSC) AND MARTIN BACON ACADEMY: The final surfacing of the path (buff tarmac) along with lighting is completed, making it a much safer route for the kids to travel to local schools and residents to use the path to Northstowe and Guided Busway. Bridleway resurfacing have been discussed with the local Bridleway Association and work will be completed by the end of the year. All other paths in and around Stirling Road around the two schools will also be finished by end of the year with the cycle lanes painted in red, except the paths across Urban Splash site.

SOUTH ACCESS ROAD WEST (SARW) CONNECTION TO B1050: Contracts were signed between CCC, and Highways England in October and work have been scheduled to be completed by February 2022.

November BT Openreach roadworks raised complaints by residents, we will issue Fixed Penalty Notices for breaching their conditions where appropriate. Further works are planned for another 10-12 weeks with 6 weeks requiring temporary lights, we have requested weekly updates on these works to update

the residents to plan their journey accordingly. Currently we understand that all works are taking place offline, and we will be given notice prior to works requiring temporary traffic lights on B1050.

WILSON'S ROAD BRIDLEWAY RESURFACING: works was completed mid-October. As this is a new innovative surfacing for our county, we are very keen to engage and work collaboratively and will be offering a site inspection after 6 months to all the members of Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum and Longstanton Parish Council. This new surfacing will benefit the local community and be truly inclusive for all abilities of walkers, horse riders, ramblers, cyclists, wheelchair users and pushchairs. Please do try out this new surfacing and feedback to me on the email address below.

HATTONS WATER PARK B1050 CYCLE PATH TO SARW: The current plan for the B1050 cycleway is to begin construction in Spring 2022. The detailed designs are still being finalised and there are a few details and risks to iron out. These works depend on the completion of works to SARW (as mentioned above).

COUNTY WIDE NEWS

COVID-19

EDUCATION: w/c 29 November has seen the highest number of cases in a single week in Cambridgeshire schools since the pandemic started. We have also closed a school for the first time this academic year due to the high number of cases and significant absence and we have also closed classes in some schools due to a lack of staff. There remain huge stresses on education leaders to continue to operate for the last two weeks of term. From the 26 November to the 2 December, we identified 1,443 cases of Covid-19 across 283 settings. This is an increase from the 888 cases reported last week and we expect the number of cases to rise again this week.

Vaccination rates among Cambridgeshire's 12–15-year-olds are at or above the East of England average in all Cambridgeshire districts, and all are higher than the England average. Vaccination rates among 12–15-year-olds in East Cambridgeshire are the second highest in Cambridgeshire. As of 23 November, vaccination rates among 12–15-year-olds were as follows.

Area	12-15 vaccination uptake
South Cambridgeshire	60.0%
East Cambridgeshire	56.5%
Huntingdonshire	54.7%
Cambridge	47.0%
Fenland	45.8%
East of England	45.8%
England	39.8%

CASE RATES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE: as of 27 November:

- 3,139 cases were recorded in Cambridgeshire in the previous seven days—477.6 cases per 100,000 population. This is above the East of England average of 455.9 cases per 100,000 population.
- 443 of these cases were in East Cambridgeshire, an increase of 10 per cent on the previous week—491.3 cases per 100,000.

VACCINATIONS

- 71,228 people in East Cambridgeshire had been given their first dose of the vaccine by the end of 25 November.
- 65,461 people in East Cambridgeshire had been given their second dose.

Booster vaccinations are now being offered to those aged 40 and above who had their second dose of the vaccine more than six months ago. However, the NHS is struggling with capacity to deliver the booster programme, meaning that a number of residents are being offered their booster vaccinations in locations as distant as King’s Lynn, and even people with pre-booked vaccination appointments are having to queue round the block at their chosen location.

TESTING: Mobile testing vehicles continue to visit sites across the county, offering on-the-spot tests as well as kits to take away and complete at home. You can also order kits to use at home. More information at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

General Covid information

- <https://twitter.com/CambsCC>
- <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-overview>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine>

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Cambridgeshire’s Household Support Fund, funded by the Department for Work and Pensions, has been created to help people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. The scheme will run until 31 March 2022.

Support is offered in two ways:

- Support with food, household energy and other essentials for individuals and families: residents are eligible to access this support if they earn less than £17,940 per year, or are in receipt of certain state benefits
- Direct food voucher scheme: as in previous school holidays, supermarket vouchers will be issued to families meeting the low-income criteria for free school meals, funded childcare for two-year-olds, early years pupil premium, or sixth form students eligible for free school meals.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY & FOOD IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Enriching experiences and a nutritious lunch are being made available in the Christmas holidays for the children of families receiving benefits-related free school meals.

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme offers fun with friends and free food for primary and secondary school children in Cambridgeshire. Sessions will include a healthy meal, a variety of exciting activities or sports and the opportunity to socialise with other children. Any child receiving benefits-related free school meals is eligible for the programme.

Funded by the Department for Education (DfE) for the next three years, the HAF scheme enables councils like Cambridgeshire to coordinate free holiday childcare and enriching experiences locally. The programme will be delivered by approved providers, and co-ordinated locally by Cambridgeshire County Council.

Each eligible child will be able to access up to 16 hours of free holiday childcare or enriching experiences through the school Christmas holiday period. Bookings have already opened and information about how to book with participating providers can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf

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

- Fun and enriching play opportunities or new experiences that provide children with new skills and knowledge.
- At least one meal a day.
- Guidance on healthy eating and getting children involved in food preparation and cooking.
- Support for parents, carers, or other family members with guidance on how to source, prepare and cook nutritious and low-cost food.
- Information and signposting to other services and support which might be helpful.

The Council is working with local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the HAF programme. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

Registered Holiday Scheme Providers and childminders are welcome to sign up to deliver the programme, by emailing HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. It would be great to see the programme expand into some of our larger villages locally. There are 29 providers in South Cambridgeshire but none in Longstanton, Northstowe, Over and Oakington & Westwick, it would be great to have a few signed up.

INNOVATE & CULTIVATE FUND

The County Council's next deadline for Innovate & Cultivate Fund applications is **1st February 2022**. The aim of the fund is to support initiatives that strengthen our communities and reduce pressure on County Council services, thereby giving a return on investment. Council services that are inviting applications are adult social care and children's services.

The fund is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. This funding round is for Cultivate grant applications (£2,000-£15,000) for projects that build community support networks for vulnerable people. Organisations need to get pre-application advice on their project ideas before submitting an application.

Do you want to do something for the community but need some inspiration to start a project? We've developed application guidance for 7 Cultivate project ideas - Mobile Warden Schemes, Community Youth Worker, Digital Inclusion, Timebanks, Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia-Friendly Communities and Community Sheds (Men's Sheds) – that can help people to remain independent and active within their community, encourage volunteering, and complement more costly Council services. Applications and further information about fund priorities and criteria may be found below:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/innovate-and-cultivate-fund>

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Full Council meeting on Tuesday 9 November were:

- The appointment of Stephen Moir as the Council's new Chief Executive—Stephen used to work for the County Council some years ago and was a strong choice as the new Chief Executive.
- Various changes to the Council's constitution, which were agreed.
- The parental leave policy for councillors which was approved.
- The Pension Fund Committee annual report, which was also agreed,
- Motions on surface water flooding (see further details below), resettlement of Afghan citizens, the Government's social care plan, and cuts to Universal Credit, which again were all agreed. The motion on Universal Credit resolved that the County.

BUDGETS – BIG NUMBERS: County Council budget preparation County Council committees are now considering options to address the Council's budget shortfall. The financial situation the new Joint Administration inherited included a gap of £22.2M between spending plans for 2022/23 and the resources available. We have already reduced this gap to £19.5M and are developing proposals to enable a balanced budget to be presented to the Full Council in February.

The overarching themes for the Council's Business Plan are:

- Economic recovery
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Decentralisation
- Environment & climate emergency
- Social Value
- Efficiency and effectiveness of Council services

RESIDENTS AT RISK OF FLOODING TO BE GIVEN EXTRA SUPPORT

Further action will be taken to protect Cambridgeshire homes from flooding, caused by excess surface water and high levels of rainfall.

Members of Cambridgeshire County Council agreed at Full Council on Tuesday (9 November) to invest more money to support residents who live in areas which are at risk. Following the decision, the council will:

- Look into the county's underground highways system and assess any known problems it may have coping with large amounts of water in a small period
- To use these findings to predict which systems may be overwhelmed and use this information in future planning
- Ensure the findings of the Winter 2020/21 flooding report are reflected in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy when considering surface water in future highways projects
- Commit to the people of Cambridgeshire that anywhere small bore pipework is causing an issue it will be addressed by carrying out an assessment of the full cost of a programme of works to either replace the small-bore soak away pipework, with appropriate higher bore pipe work solutions that bring immediate relief and also future proof as predicted or supply full details of alternative solutions in those areas with fully costed plans of actions that will mitigate and protect property in areas of known puddling. Consideration of solutions and costs for addressing surface water flooding issues to go through the Council's ongoing business planning process
- Ask Cambridgeshire County Council's Chief Executive to write to all planning authority chairs, water companies and other relevant agencies to seek their input on these possible strategies

These plans will ensure residents of homes at risk of flooding caused by heavy downpours are as protected as possible.

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/residents-at-risk-of-flooding-to-be-given-extra-support?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo

LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee approved a draft revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which will go out to public consultation shortly. The overall objectives of the strategy remain the same:

1. Understanding flood risk in Cambridgeshire
2. Managing the likelihood of flooding
3. Helping Cambridgeshire's citizens to manage their own risk
4. Ensuring appropriate development in Cambridgeshire

5. Improving flood prediction, warning, and post flood recovery

The new strategy will cover the period 2021-2027. It has been updated to reflect the effects of climate change, changes in policy and legislation, the increased importance of working in partnership—and of course the winter 2020 floods. The strategy identifies that there needs to be much greater clarity on the roles of each flood risk management authority, and greater reference to riparian ownership and community involvement.

We would welcome feedback, click on the link below:

<https://consultcamb.s.uk.engagementhq.com/cambridgeshire-flood-risk-management-strategy>

Consultation ends 23 January 2022

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

A draft of the County Council's revised Climate Change & Environment Strategy will be considered by the Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee on 16 December. This follows a series of engagement meetings with parish councils, local businesses, and Council staff across the organisation. The final version of the Strategy will be considered by the Full Council at the budget meeting in February.

The Council's annual report on its carbon footprint will go to the Committee for consideration in January.

CLIMATE-RELATED RESEARCH: Meanwhile, work is ongoing by postgraduate students from the University of Cambridge on two pieces of climate-related work.

- The first is considering the potential for a Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund and how it might work.
- The second is considering how Local Area Energy Planning could work in Cambridgeshire. Local area energy usually refers to energy projects that are led by local organisations, whether public, private or third sector, and run for local benefit. Local area energy plans can cover lots of different activities taking place within a local area such as
 - Improving the energy efficiency of homes within a local area
 - Installing micro-generation, like solar panels on the roofs of houses and community buildings
 - Creating local generation, such as a local wind farm to produce energy exclusively for consumers in that area
 - Managing local distribution, potentially via a 'smart' local grid (a network that moves energy around a small geographic area)
 - Making public or on street electric vehicle charging points more widely available
 - Taking action on climate change including requiring low carbon heat in new buildings, creating heat from waste, or public and private transport/clean air priorities such as low emission zones.

We look forward to receiving the reports from the students in the new year.

QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

Next year marks 70 years since Queen Elizabeth II took the throne; to celebrate the anniversary and create a lasting legacy, a UK-wide tree planting initiative named The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) has been established.

The unique scheme involves inviting people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee," with everyone encouraged to plant trees in the current and in the next planting season (October 2021 – March 2022 and October 2022 – March 2023). Any trees planted in this period can be badged under the project.

To drive the push locally, both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are working with the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Julie Spence, to raise awareness of the project and with residents, community groups, schools, businesses, and other partners to encourage and support their participation. Everyone is invited to take part and it is easy to get involved – whether you are an expert gardener or complete novice, there is something you can do. This includes individuals planting trees on private land, community planting projects, schools planting trees on their premises and businesses setting up tree planting projects with employees.

So far, trees have been planted in three local schools: Woodston Primary School in Peterborough, Spring Meadow Infant & Nursery School in Ely, and St Philip's Church of England Primary School in Cambridge. Both Councils have also committed to carrying out planting within their rural estates,

We'd like to ask for your support in encouraging community groups, schools, residents, and businesses in your ward/division to create their own planting projects. More information about what, where and when to plant can be found here: [The Queen's Green Canopy Project - Cambridgeshire County Council](#).

A national map is being hosted on the national QGC website where planting projects can be added, so everyone can view the contribution being made across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. If you know of a planting project taking place in your ward/division, then please encourage the organiser to add it to the map: [Map - The Queen's Green Canopy \(queensgreencanopy.org\)](#). Plaques are also available from the Queen's Green Canopy website. We can also support the organisation of planting events, and facilitate the attendance of Mayors, the Lord Lieutenant or one of her Deputies, and other dignitaries.

EDUCATION

A campaign has been launched to find more people willing to serve on the governing bodies of schools in Cambridgeshire. Schools are looking for governors who can bring a variety of skills and expertise from a wide range of backgrounds.

Governors – who are volunteers – support the strategic leadership of the school, providing support, challenge, and accountability to the school's headteacher and senior leaders. The headteacher is responsible for the operational running of the school on a day-to-day basis. Cambridgeshire County Council is particularly seeking to build diverse governing bodies which reflect the communities they serve, enabling children to succeed and thrive.

Previous experience of being a school governor is not necessary, as full induction and training will be offered. Experience of working in education is not necessary either.

Governors are usually appointed for a four-year term. Time commitments vary from school to school, but to fulfil the role effectively, governors are expected to sit on individual committees, visit the school regularly and attend full governing body meetings.

Responsibilities include working as part of a team, maintaining educational standards and performance, holding the school to account, and monitoring the school's budget.

Further information about the role and how to apply can be found here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/working-together-children-families-and-adults/working-with-partners/school-governors>

GREATER CAMBRIDGESHIRE PARTNERSHIP – MAKING CONNECTIONS CONSULTATION

Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership consultation has started. It could make a difference to how you get around and essential to transforming our public transport.

We need a better public transport system to ensure that most people have a quicker, more convenient, and reliable journey than by car. It is extremely important that everyone has their say.

Please take time to fill out the survey, there is a map available for St Ives corridor map which includes Northstowe, Longstanton and Oakington.

The consultation closes at midday on **Monday 20 December 2021**

Details included are:

- Quicker, more frequent rural and city bus services
- Extended bus operating hours
- Making Greater Cambridge a better place to live and travel in and around more easily
- Simplified bus routes
- Shorter journey times
- New services linking buses into the core network
- Improved walking and cycling facilities to connect to buses
- The different ways this could be funded

Check out the #MakingConnections proposals in more detail and share your thoughts <https://tinyurl.com/yb4jea5v>

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>

COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Monthly email newsletter - with updates on local news as well as wider district issues which will impact us all. To sign up please go to: https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/email_signup_longstanton

(Note to help us manage GDPR it is easier for us to host from the LibDems webpage, but we absolutely promise this link will NOT subscribe you to LibDem news)

For all the latest news & updates so far please go to: https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/longstanton_news

For those on social media we have a highly active Facebook group covering the whole ward here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/>

Contact Details

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these, or any other matters.

Alex Malyon and Sarah Cheung Johnson

District Councillors for Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick and Northstowe

Firouz Thompson, County Councillor for Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick, Northstowe & Over

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