

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

LONGSTANTON WARD

COVERING LONGSTANTON, NORTHSTOWE, OAKINGTON & WESTWICK

MARCH 2022

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

NORTHSTOWE PHASE 3B PLANNING COMMITTEE

The application was approved by the committee. We submitted the statement below to the committee.

The full set of documents from the committee is available here:

<https://scamb.smodern.gov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=768&MId=9409&Ver=4>

In addition to the comments we made on the original application we would ask the committee to consider this application in the context of the two additional parcels of land adjacent to the existing Northstowe homes on the west side of the B1050 – Digital Park and Endurance Park. We are very concerned about the cumulative impact that all three developments will have on the B1050 which is already very busy at peak hours and ask the committee give due consideration to the County's assessment on project traffic flows for all 3 developments not just Phase 3b.

In addition, we welcome the Co-ordination document provided by Homes England to enable these three developments to work together in a co-ordinated fashion on issues that link all three developments and if there is a way to formalise this process and adherence to cross-party co-ordination as these 3 developments build out we would welcome them.

B1050 RE-ROUTING COMPLETE

The B1050 weekend closure was completed and traffic is now flowing in both directions across the roundabout. Road surfacing works were completed, there is now additional work for the verges and for the street lighting testing and commissioning but these do not require further closures.

Sisk are aiming for the Southern Access Road West to be open in April, which will provide a direct route from Northstowe to the Bar Hill A14 junction.

NORTHSTOWE ENTERPRISE ZONE, PHASE 1 AND CIVIC HUB

We have been in discussions with officers at the Council to feedback resident's concerns. We are still chasing further concrete action from officers on where community facilities will be displaced to once we are no longer able to use the Northstowe Community Wing and options are being actively worked on. For Phase 1 we are still pushing our request for meanwhile uses to be considered, including a shop, even if quite basic, to be part of these initial plans for delivery. For the GP surgery we are asking for more

updates on when the final build out date will be and whether there will be a temporary service to cover provision. It's all very frustrating but we will keep pushing.

GREEN BINS

Following residents complaints at the withdrawal of green bin services due to staff shortage issues, two additional services were provided in 2 Saturdays in February. All green bins will now be collected as per the usual schedule.

We have flagged additional issues with Northstowe bins not being collected week in week out. The waste team leadership have promised to review the in-cab mapping system and provide maps. We will continue to monitor this situation.

DISTRICT WIDE NEWS

COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS FOR QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

SCDC would like to support communities in marking 'The Queen's Platinum Jubilee'. For this reason, the criteria for the Community Chest Grant scheme has been flexed on a temporary and one-off basis until 12 April to allow Parish Councils and community groups to make Jubilee-related applications of up to £700. Applications will then be assessed at the Grants Advisory Committee meetings to help parishes plan ahead.

Maybe you'd like to purchase a Commemoration bench? Or plant a tree or a rose in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee? These are just a couple of ideas! We welcome your application, and if you know of any community groups wishing to undertake a Jubilee-related project, we would ask you to make them aware of this fund. Applications should be in the spirit of the rest of the Community Chest grant criteria. For further details: Community Chest Grant page at SCDC

BUSINESS GRANTS

The last round of Covid Grants is now being allocated and is focused on businesses which have specifically been affected by Omicron including those in the food and hospitality sectors and supply chains and in personal care e.g hairdressers and beauticians.

Since the start of the pandemic, the District Council has distributed a total of around £45 million in Government business support grants to more than 5,000 South Cambridgeshire businesses. Anyone needing advice relating to their business can contact the Council's Business Support and Development team at openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk or visit www.scambs.gov.uk/business

CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Last month we told you that South Cambs District Council and the County Council were working together to introducing civil parking enforcement. This will see responsibilities for dealing with illegal parking shift from Cambridgeshire Police to Cambridgeshire County Council. This will mean drivers parking illegally, such as on double yellow lines, could be issued a ticket by Civil Enforcement Officers and ordered to pay a penalty charge.

The County Council will prepare an application to the Secretary of State for a Special Enforcement Area, via the Department for Transport, to introduce the scheme. Subject to the approval of this application, it is expected that civil parking enforcement could begin in South Cambridgeshire in the autumn of next year.

In South Cambridgeshire, the upfront costs of introducing civil parking enforcement will be funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership, including a full review of road lines and signs. They will also cover any financial deficit of the scheme for the first five years and all income that is generated by fines will be used to help pay for the costs of running the scheme.

BIO-DIVERSITY REPORT

South Cambs DC has just published a Bio Diversity Supplementary Planning Document which you can see at <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/2476/gcsp-biodiversity-spd-feb-2022.pdf> and which supports the Doubling Nature Strategy published last year. It details how all new development must protect, preserve and enhance nature and encourages parish councils to develop their own nature recovery plans.

BUDGETING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

South Cambridgeshire District Council is allocating £6.83m of its £70m total spend to its Zero Carbon Strategy and Action Plan. The measures range from a solar farm to power bin lorries - to the completion of a massive programme to install energy-efficient LEDs in streetlights all of which contributes to the ambition to halve carbon emissions locally by 2030 - and reduce them to zero by 2050. Money will also go towards maintaining the 275km (171 miles) network of watercourses in the district, and financial support of parish councils and community groups to reduce their carbon footprint. More electric vehicle charging points would also be installed.

WILD MINDS

Covid has affected very many children's mental health and current services are not sufficient to meet the urgent need. The Wild Minds project, sponsored by South Cambs aims to help young people experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues to improve through activity courses. By the time you read this the latest courses will probably be underway but more will follow.

Young people benefit from spending time in a therapeutic outdoor environment with qualified activity instructors, trained youth workers, and a small group of peers. The course is designed to help teens tackle things like mild anxiety, low mood and depression, and to improve self-confidence and esteem. A clinical psychologist oversees the course, providing support to young people who may otherwise go without, due to not meeting the threshold for NHS mental health care.

Young people who would like to attend, or parents or carers who think the course may be suitable for a young person in their care, can register now online: www.scamb.gov.uk/wildminds

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS QUARTERLY MEETING: A meeting was held on Friday 4 February, next planned meeting will be held in May, I will contact the Parish Clerks to arrange the next date.

ROADWORKS:

Dropped kerb, Orchard Way 8-10 March, Some carriageway incursion

<https://one.network/?GB127905913>

Footway Slurry Sealing on Church View 4-18 March, Traffic control give and take

<https://one.network/?GB126956370>

Repairs to vehicle strike damaged masonry parapet wall and repointing of parapet, Dry Drayton Road, Traffic control give and take, 14-21 March <https://one.network/?GB127747667>

Tree works on Cambridge Road 14-15 March, Traffic control stop/go boards

<https://one.network/?GB127679995>

Road surfacing – Plane out and relay, Queens Way, 23-24 March, Traffic control stop/go boards

<https://one.network/?GB126484869>

Road surfacing – Plane out and relay, Meadow Farm Close, 28-29 March, Traffic control stop/go boards

<https://one.network/?GB126488549>

Road surfacing – Plane out and relay, Coles Lane, 30-31 March, Road Closure

<https://one.network/?GB126489444>

BLOCKED DITCH, GATEHOUSE LANE: the team have inspected the ditch from Oakington Road that starts opposite The Evergreens to Beck Brook. This could do with the landowner undertaking some maintenance to it. We have written letters to both the adjacent landowners, asking them to inspect and clear the ditch, we will monitor and await reply from the owners and will keep Laura updated.

HOMES ENGLAND WORKS TO BE COMPLETED:

NORTHSTOWE NEW SOUTH ACCESS ROAD WEST (SARW) TIE IN CONNECTION TO B1050:

Weekend of 4-6 March: all carriageway surfacing to roundabout approaches completed, all permanent white lining is complete, the street lighting has been completed as you travel from Longstanton towards the A14 and will be turned on soon, once testing and commissioning has been completed. Finishing works will take on the verges and to the cycleway / footpath and the temporary traffic lights have been removed. South Access Road West is due to open in the next few months.

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NORTHSTOWE EDUCATION CAMPUS: Works due to complete outside of Northstowe Secondary School, Martin Bacon Academy and Urban Splash Home in the next few months.

RAMPTON DRIFT BYWAY: Path from Rampton Drift to Stirling is due to be completed in the next month. The section from Stirling Road to Busway surfacing will be half hard top for pedestrian/cyclist and the other half will be soft surfacing for equestrians.

REYNOLDS DROVE: Resurfacing work will commence on 28 March for 2 weeks (weather permitting). The surface will be dressed using 10mm and 6mm aggregate. A 3mm granite dust will then be swept into the surface dressing to fill the small voids and provide a smoother surface which will be suitable for pedestrian, cyclists and equestrians.

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, rambles, cyclists, wheelchair users and pushchairs. **Please do try out this new surfacing and feedback to me on the email address below as 6 months will be up in April.**

DEFECTS ON AND OFF RAMPS OF THE BRIDGE OVER THE A14 GOING TO BAR HILL: We have had several reports of what sounds like a serious defect. Both bridge expansion joints where the bridge join the road surface have subsided causing 'ramp' like subsidence – causes big bang and jolt cars. The bridge has been adopted by CCC from National Highways as part of the ongoing A14 handover. At the time of handover, the defect at the joint was not apparent. We are monitoring the problem and have erected signs to warn drivers. It looks like it is a defect in its construction and/or design, and we are investigating the cause so we can organise a permanent repair. Our initial thoughts are that it is subsidence of the made up ground at the point it meets the bridge. This can occur in new structures as the new ground settles over time but is not usually by so much in this short time. We are in discussions with National Highways on the best way of repairing.

PRESCHOOL BUILDING – NEXT TO OAKINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The express of interest in running the Early Years (EY) provision from this building, went live on the Council's portal on Monday 28 Feb 2022 and we have distributed a message to EY providers that same day to bring it to their attention. It is CCC's obligation to deliver local EY services, therefore we must by law follow this procedure to ensure we are delivering against our obligation as a County Council.

Here is a link to the advert: <https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=a17abd3f-a098-ec11-8112-005056b64545&p=ea3edb62-3a92-eb11-810c-005056b64545>

Providers need to create an account on the website in order to express an interest in the advert and see the document. The CCC team will take the decision, within a few weeks of the closing date, for the

submission of expressions of interest from the EY sector (taking into account forecasting data, the local EY sufficiency picture etc) as to whether or not to formally tender for a new EY provider. If we do tender then, realistically, we would not have a new provider in place before September until the new provider begins operations from the site.

In the meanwhile, we are leasing the building to Oakington Primary School, to use the space to run SEND interventions, support groups, music lessons, as well as breakfast and after-school clubs and generally have more space to run meetings. The difference this will make will be huge for the school as they have limited space and they have actively been building outdoor space. We are hoping to handover the building by Easter before Summer Term starts.

If the decision is not to re-tender for an EY Tender, then the Education Place Planning would cease and the appropriate colleagues in the Strategic Assets team (part of the Property Service) would be the colleagues from the Council who would liaise with the school regarding the site's future use.

Once we know who will occupy the space from September, discussions can take place on how other community groups could access the building in the evenings.

Thank you to the Parish Council and all residents who raised concerns about this building remaining empty.

NORTHSTOWE SECONDARY COLLEGE – SIXTH FORM PROVISIONS

Approval for the next phase of Northstowe Education Campus at CCC Children & Young People's Committee - 1 March 2022

Agenda Item 7: to approve the direct award of the design and construction contract for Phase 2 of the Northstowe education campus to Kier construction and the supporting consultant team.

An extract from the report:

1.8 There is now a need to commission the next phase of development of the Education Campus. The project budget for Phase 2 allocated in the 2022/23 business plan is £21m.

The brief is currently being developed with the Trust and wider stakeholder team but will broadly comprise the following:

- Provision of a Post 16 centre through extension of the main (Core) block
- Expansion of secondary school to 8 forms of entry (FE) including repurposing of
- existing general teaching to specialist teaching
- Provision of a 3FE (630 place) Primary School on land adjacent to the Area Special School

CLlr Firouz Thompson's statement at the committee:

Apologies as I am unable to attend the committee meeting today as a regular member, I have asked Vice-Chair Cllr Maria King to read out the following statement on my behalf:

I would like to STRESS that I am delighted to see the design and construction contract for Phase 2 of the Northstowe education campus on the agenda today.

It is essential that Northstowe Secondary College's post 16 building is ready for September 2024 opening, to ensure that the current Year 9s can seamlessly continue their education.

I understand from our officers that there was a review of the overall demand for post 16 places that was undertaken across the Cambridge Partnership area (Cambridge City, South Cambs and East Cambs), though not Northstowe specific the additional capacity was required across this area by 2024. This was to be provided by the opening of post 16 provision at both Northstowe and Cambourne. The review I refer to was approved by CYP Committee previously.

In the new era of rising inflation - forecast to peak near 9% this year in the construction industry, there is a stronger case for direct award as a greater benefit may accrue to the authority from being able to conclude design packages, secure supplier and fix prices at the earliest opportunity.

Having spoken recently to Northstowe Secondary School, it was highlighted that they are also getting tight for teaching classrooms as they are filling up rapidly, so 2024 completion date is essential to accommodate the increasing numbers of pupils.

I would ask the Committee to vote for this agenda item and thank in doing so.

Pleased to announce that the above was approved unanimously which is fantastic for our community

Link to report - Agenda item 7: <https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/.../Docum.../Default.aspx>

Link to Video, please start at 1:03:51: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-6rgZa-x2k>

STAGECOACH QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Notes from Quarterly meeting on 3 March:

Update on Business

- 60% (of pre covid) of their fleet is now running, they need the other 40% back
- Govt funding is critical to support them whilst customer number rise, they have just been awarded another 6 months
- Capacity restrictions now lifted, more buses added to feet to cope with peak demands, extra 6000 miles a month, but they need more
- Driver shortage now much improved, but they are still down
- Good team in place, working hard to deliver services in a challenging environment
- Electric buses not suitable for busway, as they cannot reach the high speeds, but they are working to decarbonising by 2035. EV buses are approx. £500k compared to £170k diesel

Fares/Tickets

- Flexi tickets zone now extended to Bar Hill, so residents can use them on the number 5 bus to get to Tesco for their shopping
- Ticket prices have been reduced since 4 January 2022

- 92% of customers pay less than they did
- Flexi 5 and 10 introduced across the East, not available at machines and smart cards, exclusive to Bus App on Smart Phones (stated: 90%+ own a smart phone). Best value fares are via app
- New youth tickets for under 19s and full-time students with valid Id. Ticket prices at 33% less than adult prices
- Reduction in 95%-day rider prices – great days out for less
- Cambridge Town flexi tickets will reduce in price and continue to be valid along the Busway as far as St Ives bus station
- Return fares are not available -
- Weekend family rates 2.4 children approx. £8.40
- Tap on/Tap off like London, is being trialled in Leicester and Wales, also looking to QR codes

Timetable

- Timings for guided bus to North Cambridge, there are difficulties with aligning bus timetables to meet with train times. Train times change 3x a year and this is not aligned with the way Stagecoach run their timetable.
- Service to start at Longstanton at AM peak will be considered when client numbers will start to increase.

Northstowe specific

- Phase 1 bus stops by 2024, Phase 2 travel packs in progress
- Regular community engagement, resident session
- Monthly meeting with Prajina Baisyet – Travel Plan Plus Manager

Other

- Firouz will look to invite Over and possibly Histon to these quarterly meetings – all villages along the busway
- Firouz will assist Stagecoach in promoting buses on local FB pages, Stagecoach marketing team to get in touch.
- Next meeting – calendar invite sent for **9 June 2022**, Firouz to share invite with Parish Clerk and Chair to nominate a Cllr to attend.

COUNTY WIDE NEWS

COVID-19

Covid precautions in England were removed on Thursday 24 February. People with Covid are no longer legally required to self-isolate, and the £500 payment for some people on lower incomes has also ended. Statutory sick pay and employment support allowance will start to be paid after four and seven days of absence, rather than immediately. Routine testing for pupils and staff in schools has ended, with the exception of special schools. Free lateral flow and PCR tests will end from 1 April, with very few exceptions.

Vaccinations: the roll out of vaccinations for 5 to 11 year olds will begin from 31 March. Advice at this point is that children will be vaccinated in pharmacies and mass vaccination centres rather than in primary schools. Mobile vaccination centres are still in operation—see the schedule at <https://www.thevaccinators.co.uk/>

General Covid information

<https://twitter.com/CambsCC>

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronaviruscovid-19-overview>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirusvaccination/coronavirus-vaccine>

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Reminder! This fund aims to help those struggling to pay for food, energy or other essential items this winter. Cambridgeshire County Council has been allocated £3.58 million as part of the Government's Household Support Fund to help people who need financial support.

The Household Support Fund itself is a new one-off grant, which is live until **31 March 2022**. This usually provides £49 (for a family) or £29 (for an individual) to cover food or household energy costs, but more funding may be available for people who can demonstrate a higher need – for instance for higher costs of filling an oil tank or buying a new cooker. To be eligible for the Household Support Fund residents will need to earn less than £17,940 or receive any of the following: Income Support; Income-based Job Seekers Allowance; Income-related Employment and Support Allowance; Pension Credit; Universal Credit; Working Tax Credit.

Demand is very high so is now restricted to one application per person.

Details of how to access the scheme are available here:

<https://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 Easter 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.

HIGHWAYS

New tools have landed in the Highways community kit box, which will be welcome news for all those communities with an interest in 20mph speed limits. There are two types of 20mph schemes which can be introduced by the council – 20mph limits and 20mph zones. A 20mph limit typically covers individual or small numbers of streets and requires signs only, while 20mph zones typically cover larger areas and require both signs and markings.

The former is more cost effective, but the latter have been found to have a greater impact in reducing speed limits, especially when accompanied by traffic calming measures. The County Council Highways and Transport Committee will establish a new process for the implementation of 20mph schemes. This will allow third parties – such as parish councils - to make an application for a 20mph limit in their chosen area, with a number of schemes then progressing following a period of assessment and prioritisation.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE CHANGES: COVID-19 measures at the Household Recycling Centres are being changed with effect from Tuesday 1 March. Booking requirements for all vehicles at all sites are being removed, and the number of vehicles allowed on all sites is being increased to pre-COVID levels.

There will still be 'meet and greet' staff to limit the number of vehicles on site to the sites' maximum parking bay capacity, site signage related to COVID, hand sanitiser for public use, and social distancing between site staff and visitors. Anyone who is self-isolating is asked not to attend any site. Where staff assistance is needed, materials must be removed from the vehicle by the site visitor for removal by site staff after the visitor's departure. Staff will maintain social distancing, wear gloves and sanitise after handling waste. Where practical, only one person should be on a gantry at any time except where two are required to lift bulky items.

Visits using vehicles or trailers which require e-permits will be registered by site staff on arrival at a recycling centre, as they were prior to the introduction of the booking system, with no requirement to book visits in advance.

SOLAR TOGETHER: The second round for the registration is currently open to join a large group of people across Cambridgeshire buying solar panels or battery storage from pre-approved installers. Homeowners can register online to express interest free of charge and without obligation.

More information about the scheme is available at <https://solartogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire/landing> Pre-approved suppliers will take part in an auction on **15 March**, bidding to supply and install the panels and batteries for the whole group. They can offer competitive prices because of the number of installations close to each other.

After the auction, applicants will receive a personal recommendation. If they accept this, the details will be confirmed with a technical survey and an installation date set. Telephone and email helpdesks are on hand throughout, along with pre-installation information sessions.

The effects of climate change are becoming ever more obvious, and energy bills are rising astronomically. This is a great way to reduce carbon emissions, and energy costs over the longer term.

On 9 February Cllr Lorna Dupre, was on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire to promote the second round of Cambridgeshire's group buying scheme for solar energy. The interview can be found here: https://youtu.be/8N_bb67mfps

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY: An action plan setting out how and by when the council and the whole of Cambridgeshire will reach net zero has been approved by Cambridgeshire County Council's Full Council.

The impacts of climate change are being experienced in the UK and across the world. To reduce these impacts we need to cut greenhouse emissions as fast as we can and the next ten years are critical.

The council has reviewed its Climate Change and Environment Strategy and on Tuesday (8th February) the new strategy was approved by Full Council. The strategy will mobilise all parts of the council to prioritise cutting carbon emissions and building community resilience to climate impacts.

It also outlines how the council will deliver on its commitments to reach net zero, work with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Climate Commission and district council partners, and respond to the inevitable future challenges by setting:

- A new ambition for Cambridgeshire to reach net zero emissions by 2045.
- An organisational target for the county council to reach Net Zero by 2030.
- The need for the council and others to engage, support and collaborate with communities, partners and businesses to make positive changes themselves.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/strategy-to-move-faster-to-tackle-climate-change-approved-by-full-council>

A NEW PLAN TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FLOODING IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE over the next five years has been approved. Members of the county council's Environment & Green Investment Committee agreed the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Strategy and supporting action plan at its meeting on Thursday 3 March.

The council is responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a local flood risk management strategy (LFRMS) for the county. The key objectives of the strategy are: understanding flood risk in Cambridgeshire, managing the likelihood of flooding, helping residents to manage their own risk, ensuring appropriate development in Cambridgeshire and improving flood prediction, warning and post flood recovery.

Residents can check their flood risk by using the online flood maps to check whether they're at risk of flooding at <https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding>

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/new-plan-to-reduce-the-risk-of-flooding-in-cambridgeshire-approved>

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COP: 80 representatives of organisations fighting the climate emergency met on Monday 28 February to kick off a year-long 'Cambridgeshire COP'. After COP26, the climate summit held in Glasgow last November, Cambridgeshire County Council leader Cllr Lucy Nethsingha was inspired to bring together countywide organisations to share information on Cambridgeshire's current position in the race to net zero.

Monday's webinar heard from Cllr Nethsingha, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, Mayor Dr Nik Johnson, and Cllr Pippa Heylings who sits on both the Local Government Association Climate Board and South Cambridgeshire District Council. Cambridgeshire's Lord Lieutenant Julie Spence was also in attendance and read a message of encouragement from Prince William Duke of Cambridge.

The event included four group discussions on increasing biodiversity, developing sustainable transport, changing heating and housing options, and dealing with waste. A range of local events and activities will take place throughout the year. These will include a biodiversity in May, to mirror the international national biodiversity conference in China; activities led by youth groups in June to coincide with the pre-

COP27 discussions in Bonn; and a two week series of activities across Cambridgeshire 7-18 November to coincide with COP27 in Egypt.

LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: The revised local flood risk management strategy is expected to be approved by the council's Environment & Green Investment Committee on Thursday 3 March, having completed its public consultation and been amended in the light of residents' and councillors' comments.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON PROTECTING COUNTY'S HERITAGE: Love your local heritage? Here's your chance to have a say and help us protect Cambridgeshire's local heritage.

Cambridgeshire residents are being asked for their views on which local buildings, structures, archaeological sites and landscapes they value, and feel are important to the character of their local areas, as part of a new Local Heritage Listing project.

For many years the national listing system has recognised buildings of national importance, by designating buildings as grade 1, 2* and 2. Local Heritage Lists aim to identify buildings and heritage assets which, whilst not meeting the national criteria, are important at a local level.

The project received funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) which invited councils in England to create pilot projects for Local Heritage Lists in their areas. Cambridgeshire's joint bid was one of the 22 successful projects to secure funding.

A new website has been launched (<https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/cambridgeshire>) with guidance on how you can get involved in the initiative and nominate buildings and archaeological sites to be considered for the Local List, which will recognise their importance and help preserve them.

ETHICS & BEHAVIOUR AT THE COUNTY COUNCIL

You may be aware of 'Farmgate' whereby an independent investigation concluded that the former Cambridgeshire County Council deputy leader breached the Council's Code of Conduct in six different areas. Ex-Councillor Hickford failed to treat Officers and others acting on behalf of the Council with respect; used a bullying manner in order for the Council to pay for works that would otherwise be the responsibility of the tenant. He also used a bullying manner in order to set the terms of the lease for Manor Farm. He compromised Officers and others' impartiality in his dealings with regard to Manor Farm and his conduct towards Officers and others and his conflict of interest would have reduced the public's confidence in him being able to fulfil his role or the Council being able to discharge its functions.

He also used his position as Deputy Leader to receive concessions that the Council would not otherwise have agreed to and failed to register a disclosable pecuniary interest (the tenancy of Manor Farm) within 28 days and he failed to declare a non-statutory disclosable interest in meetings with regard to County Farms matters.

The recommendation also included taking up the issue with colleagues in councils across Cambridgeshire to improve standards of behaviour in public life more widely.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/investigation-finds-former-deputy-leader-breached-code-of-conduct>

COUNTY FARM ESTATE

Cambridgeshire County Council has been advertising for new tenants for seven council-owned farms, part of the council's 33,000 acre rural estate. The council's estate – the largest public sector estate in the country – is divided into 226 holdings, with 160 different tenants. The seven farms up for application, 1,800 acres in total, are in South Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Littleport. Interest is high, with 67 viewings booked by mid-February.

The estate brings in £5M in rent to the county council each year, to support local services. It contributes to the local economy, enables the council to put its environmental commitments into practice, and ensure public access to the countryside with permissive paths and bridleways.

The council is looking for innovative, entrepreneurial applicants with new ideas for developing their own businesses on the land. These could well be arable or livestock farming, but there are also opportunities for ancillary enterprises such as livery, farm shops or engineering.

Applicants will need to demonstrate that they have the necessary skills and a viable three-year business plan and budget. They will also need to show that they understand the council's expectations for the farms' estate, and in particular are keen to farm in step with nature and do their bit to help tackle climate change and increase biodiversity.

Interviews will take place this month, and tenancies will be ready to take up from October onwards. The council has published a brochure about this opportunity,

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/business-with-the-council/rural-business-opportunities>

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

HOLIDAY VOUCHERS AND HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT: The council's Children & Young People Committee approved at their meeting on 1 March to continue the supermarket voucher scheme for 2022/23 for eligible families, on the same basis as in the current financial year. This will cost around £3.6M and will operate alongside the Holiday Activity and Food Scheme which will also continue to run in the coming year.

SPECIAL NEEDS PROVISION: During Covid-19 Cambridgeshire has seen an unprecedented increase in the numbers of children with special educational needs and disabilities who require a specialist placement. As of 8 February, 211 children in Cambridgeshire had an Education Health and Care Plan requiring placement in a special school or specialist provision attached to a mainstream school in the near future. This includes pupils who have moved into Cambridgeshire. These pupils are either currently on roll in a mainstream school or receiving tuition packages of alternative provision.

The council is proposing to commission new and additional places to meet this need through appropriate specialist educational provision across Cambridgeshire. On a wider, strategic scale, officers are also mapping future demand in order to develop sustainable specialist provision for the future.

Proposals include expansion of existing Area Special schools, creation of dedicated provision attached to mainstream schools, and more efficient use of independent providers through negotiation of block contracts.

YOUNG PERSON'S MENTAL HEALTH HUBS: Calls to open new Young Person's Mental Health Hubs across Cambridgeshire have been unanimously approved by county councillors. An early support hub is a mental health and wellbeing hub that provides open access, flexible, early support in their communities for young people aged under 25. The centres bring together various services to support young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing such as youth services, sexual health and drug and alcohol services, and health and wellbeing and mental health practitioners. The aim is to provide support before young people reach crisis point, with the hubs accessed without the need for referrals from doctors or schools.

THINK COMMUNITIES MARCH NEWSLETTER

Please find a link here to Think Communities March Newsletter from the South Cambs Think Communities place team. It is brimming with useful information and we hope that you find it interesting - <https://sway.office.com/rqwDDOQxbSdfYFNx?ref=Link>

Topics covered this month are:

- Free courses for communities from Living Sport, CCVS, WEA
- Support Cambridgeshire Funding Week – 14-17 March – 4 days of funding advice
- Loneliness and Isolation
- Emergency Food Leaflet
- Wild Minds – New Course and Job Opportunity
- Community Connectors

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>

COMMUNITY UPDATES

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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