

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

LONGSTANTON WARD

COVERING LONGSTANTON, NORTHSTOWE, OAKINGTON & WESTWICK

OCTOBER 2021

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

DAVID WILSON HOMES – IMPACT PILING ENFORCEMENT ACTION

In September, many residents were disturbed by the very noisy impact piling being carried out on the Hg Barratts Homes parcel. The developers did not have permission for this work, and they had indicated that there would be no need for piling in their planning submission.

Following a call to the site manager by ourselves, piling was stopped for half a day before beginning again. An enforcement officer did then visit the site to investigate and the following day a Temporary Stop Notice was issued to the developers. This specifically bans them from piling work for 28 days. They will be required to reapply for planning permission should they wish to do further piling work and will need to fully justify why this work is required.

We were disappointed at the initial slow response from the Council's enforcement team and have fed this back to senior council officers and our Lead Member for Planning. The enforcement team are now pursuing legal action against the developers for failing to abide by the planning conditions. We fully support this action and will continue to call for more robust action by planning enforcement. Developers must abide by the planning conditions, and we hope this action serves as a deterrent for other housebuilders in future. If anyone has video or audio of the piling work which can be used as evidence in this case, please send it to enforcement@scamb.gov.uk

At the time of writing this report we have also been notified by residents about concern that piling equipment has been brought on site on another parcel, Bovis in front of Linden. We have confirmed that no piling is permitted on any parcel on Phase 1. These latest reports have been sent to planning Enforcement and we will update when we have further details.

STAGECOACH MEETING

We are in the process of organising a meeting with Stagecoach for Oakington & Longstanton Parish Councils and Northstowe Town Council. Topics and questions are invited, and we will fix a date soon.

We will then arrange a meeting with the Mayor to ask questions on the strategic public transport plan.

UPDATE ON NORTHSTOWE ALLOTMENTS

South Cambridgeshire District Council has commissioned a contractor to rectify waterlogging in the Northstowe Phase 1 allotment and orchard land, to bring the land up to the standard that we and

residents expect. This will ensure the land remains fit for purpose in the long term. Through an extensive planning pre-application process, we have confirmed that the drainage solution proposed aligns with the drainage strategy for this area.

The freehold of the allotment and orchard land belongs to the District Council. The allotments are operated by the Northstowe Horticultural Association under licence. The Horticultural Association have been kept fully involved and informed with the progress to date.

We regret that, currently, allotment holders are unable to work their plots, but with the contractors due to start on site next week we are working to resolve the drainage issue as soon as possible. The District Council intends to recover the costs involved in this process from the Phase 1 Open Space Management and Maintenance fund, as agreed by the Phase 1 Northstowe Open Space Management Steering Group (August 2021)

CONSTRUCTION VEHICLE MOVEMENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

We have had complaints raised by parents of pupils at Northstowe Secondary School of construction vehicles blocking access to the schools and cycle paths on the education campus site. We have written to Homes England, Urban Splash and Sisk to ask that where possible, movement of construction vehicles at school drop off and pickup time is minimised. As you are aware Special Needs pupils at Martin Bacon Academy usually require taxi pickup and the queue of these cars creates a one-way street and so we have asked that they are also mindful of this.

We note the CEMP that was updated says:

Where reasonably practicable all HGV deliveries will be coordinated to avoid school pick up/drop off times when accessing via Phase 1 and Rampton Road.

The CEMP for Phase 1 states that:

Construction Vehicle Access for HGV through Phase 1 will be restricted during the school drop off and pick up periods 08.00-09.30 and from 15.00-16.30.

NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY FORUM

The next Forum will be held on Zoom from 7-9pm, 13 October 2021 – Including the Travel Plan Steering Group. You can find further details here <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-development/northstowe-community-forum/>

This meeting will include an in-person drop-in session at the Northstowe Community Wing from 3-7pm with AR-Urbanism about the employment land near the Green. This will be an opportunity to find out about the merging masterplan, comment on this and hear about feedback received so far.

KEEPMOAT HOMES PLANNING APPLICATION NORTHSTOWE PHASE 2B

Reserved matters application for 300 dwellings including affordable housing provision, non-residential floorspace, landscaping, open space and associated infrastructure for access, appearance, landscaping,

layout, and scale following outline planning permission S/2011/14/OL Site address: Phase 2B, Northstowe Land South of Rampton Drift Northstowe Cambridgeshire

This application will be considered by the South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee on 13th October 2021. The Planning Committee meeting will begin at 10.00am.

To be eligible to speak at the meeting you must have registered with the Democratic Services Officer by no later than 4.00pm two clear working days before the meeting. Following the end of temporary legislation allowing for council meetings to be conducted entirely virtually, it is now possible for public speakers to attend a meeting and speak in person, but we would still urge you to observe proceedings or participate remotely if possible. Speakers are encouraged to provide a copy of their statement to the Democratic Services Officer by 4.00pm on the day before the meeting in case their connection to the meeting fails. This will enable the statement to be read out to the Committee if the speaker is unable to join.

LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION BEGINNING 1ST NOVEMBER

Consultation will start on 1 November and run for six weeks until 13 December.

Consultations on the new draft Local Plan will begin on November 1st and we will be encouraging residents to comment on the First Proposals for the new Local Plan. Councillors at Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils completed their formal scrutiny of the draft documents.

The public consultation, which will start on 1 November, will help to shape the final plan – which will eventually set out how Greater Cambridge will develop over the next twenty years. The proposals at this stage include 19 new sites for homes and business space, with the majority of extra development proposed for Northeast Cambridge and the Cambridge Airport site.

37,198 homes are already planned for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire between now and 2041. This is through existing Local Plans for the District and City Councils which were adopted back in 2018, existing planning permissions and 'windfall' sites expected to come forward. Proposals for the new joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan suggest the following additional housing sites for the period up to 2041:

6,750 new homes at Northeast Cambridge and Cambridge East (the airport site).

An additional 1,950 new homes at Cambourne.

Bringing forward development at Waterbeach new town and Northstowe at a faster rate, so these become thriving communities more quickly.

An additional 1,000 new homes at Eddington, on the land already allocated for development.

Six additional village sites, totalling 384 homes.

One additional site in central Cambridge, for 20 homes.

These additions are needed, in the view of the Councils, due to the continuing strength of the Greater Cambridge economy as one of the most important research and innovation employment hubs in the UK. Planners say that making plans for fewer homes, when the number of jobs locally is expected to continue increasing, could mean more long-distance commuting and housing becoming more costly. However, the strategy is entirely dependent on water supply, and the number of new homes would need to be reduced without urgent action on new sources of water supply, such as new reservoirs, by the water industry and central government.

As a reminder from our last report the following sites have been identified as potential sites for development in our ward:

LOCAL PLAN – LONGSTANTON

The plan has identified one site in Longstanton for potential future development. The site is on the triangle of land between the Recreation Ground and Hatton Park Road.

Development of this site could lead to a portion of this land being given to Longstanton Parish Council, which would be used to build a new community building to replace the village institute and provide more community facilities for the village. The remainder of the land could be used for 40-50 houses, and we have suggested to planning officers that older people's or sheltered housing could be accommodated here.

The owner of this site also owns land on Home Farm. The final phase of this development was not completed, which included an additional 100 homes. The planning application for this has now lapsed. Additional work on landscaping, a noise reduction bund along the bypass and a community orchard were also planned but not delivered. If the proposed site next to the recreation ground was developed (which is not at this stage confirmed) the landowner would also wish to submit plans for this final phase of the Home Farm development to be completed. This site is within the village framework so is not included in this Local Plan.

We will be discussing these proposals with the Parish Council, and we would welcome the views of residents through the Local Plan consultation which will begin soon. We will share details of how to share your views via the consultation as soon as we have these. We will seek to represent the views of the village in our response to the consultation.

No further sites proposed in the original call for sites, including the site off School or the sites in the Longstanton Conservation area, have been selected to go forward into the Local Plan.

LOCAL PLAN – OAKINGTON

We are incredibly disappointed that a site in Oakington has been selected for inclusion in the next Local Plan, which decides where future development should happen in our area.

The development of 20 houses is on land owned by the County Council, off Water Lane, just below the busway. This land is currently part of the Green Belt.

We will be strongly objecting to the inclusion of this site as we do not think it is appropriate for a small village to have these houses added on this land. We acknowledge the need for housing, especially affordable housing, but believe Northstowe is helping to meet this need.

Water Lane is already under tremendous pressure from traffic and this development will only add to this. The addition of these houses on this site also adds to the risk of flooding. The current field acts as a buffer for the village to the busway and separation between Oakington and Westwick - more houses will remove this.

We have not been briefed on the rationale behind this decision, but we will be inviting council and planning representatives to explain this decision to the village, ideally in a public meeting, to give the community plenty of opportunity to ask questions and give their views.

A consultation phase for this plan will begin shortly and we will ask residents who feel strongly to submit their comments. We will share details of the consultation as soon as we have these. All comments will allow us to challenge Greater Cambridge Planning's decision and push for this site to be removed from the future Local Plan.

As you will see from the press release only a small number of villages have had any of their proposed sites chosen for development. We are extremely frustrated that Oakington is one of the few villages that has and will campaign against this decision.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY WIDE NEWS

REMOVAL OF £20 UNIVERSAL CREDIT UPLIFT

Changes are being made to the Universal Credit system this month which will see the temporary £20 a week increase to payments ending.

The £20 per week increase was introduced by the Government in response to the pandemic. This scheme officially ended on 6 October, when Universal Credit payments returned to their pre-pandemic levels. With that in mind, we thought it would be useful to set out the support that is available from the Council to residents who may be facing financial hardship.

Residents finding it difficult to transition back to previous Universal Credit payment levels should contact the council as soon as possible so that we can discuss the support that we may be able to provide. There are a range of options for those struggling financially, including:

- Discretionary Housing Payments which provide financial support towards housing costs. You can apply for these Discretionary Housing Payments
- The Council Tax hardship fund, which aims to provide support to those who are struggling financially because of the pandemic.
- Support and advice from our Welfare and Money Maximisation Officer, Lucy Tompkins, who can be contacted via Lucy.Tompkins@scambs.gov.uk

- Signposting to external support and advice agencies
- Along with Cambridgeshire County Council and partners, we also still offer a one-off small payment to help with immediate food or fuel needs. Anyone needing that one-off help should email our communities team on duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk
- Email our Benefits team if you have specific questions benefits@scambs.gov.uk or call 03450 450 061.
- Residents on Universal Credit can also seek financial advice and support via Citizens Advice. This should be accessed via a referral from their work coach at DWP Cambridge.

SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

Five more homes for families from Afghanistan are being put forward by South Cambridgeshire District Council – meaning up to around 40 refugees can now be housed.

Last month (August) the Council said it would provide homes to three families as part of its response to the international crisis. These homes are not ready and refugee families have been allocated.

Five further suitable properties have been put forward, including some which have been identified following conversations with housing associations working in the area. All the properties are being made available to support families relocating to the UK through the Afghan Locally Employed Support (LES) scheme.

The intention is for Cambridge City Council's experienced staff team to provide support to families as they arrive, helping them to establish new lives. This was the arrangement for the first three properties identified for the LES scheme by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Meanwhile, residents who wish to do something of their own to help families fleeing Afghanistan are being reminded that they can talk to the following organisations about what they might need, both now and into the future:

- [Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign](#) (volunteering and financial donations)
- [Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group](#) (volunteering and financial donations)
- [Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum](#)
- [Distribute Aid](#)
- [British Red Cross](#)

If Forces families are affected by the recent events re-awakening stress and trauma associated with previous conflict, help is also available.

- [Combat Stress](#) now operates a 24-hour free, confidential helpline which is available by calling 0800 138 1619. Alternatively, text 07537 173683 or email helpline@combatstress.org.uk
- For urgent and immediate support, you can reach [the Samaritans](#) on 116 123 or jo@samaritans.org
- The [Veterans' Gateway](#) helpline phone number is 0808 802 1212
- Dedicated veterans' mental health and wellbeing service Op COURAGE also supports Armed Forces veterans. [Visit the NHS website](#) or call 0300 323 0137 or email mevs.mhm@nhs.net

South Cambridgeshire District Council's five-year Business Plan commits to working with national, regional, and local partners to support the needs of refugees and asylum seekers.

CIVIL ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING IN S CAMBS

Proposals to draw-up plans to improve the way illegal parking is tackled have moved a step closer.

Introducing civil parking enforcement in South Cambridgeshire would see responsibilities for tackling illegal parking shift from Cambridgeshire Police to the County Council. This would mean drivers parking illegally and inconsiderately, such as on double yellow lines or too close to a junction or a school, could be fined by Civil Enforcement Officers. This arrangement is common in most other parts of the country and will be considered for South Cambridgeshire by the District Council's Cabinet as the County Council's plans progress.

A decision made at Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways and Transport Committee will see the County Council prepare an application to the Secretary of State for a Special Enforcement Area, via the Department for Transport, to introduce civil parking enforcement in South Cambridgeshire, as well as the districts of Huntingdonshire and Fenland.

In South Cambridgeshire, the work to draw-up these plans will be funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership and a formal update on this funding arrangement will follow later this year. A consultation process would be part of the developing plans, allowing residents and businesses to have their say. All civil parking enforcement schemes need to generate enough income to pay for themselves, which will inform how the scheme is developed for South Cambridgeshire.

SCDC'S HIGH STREETS TEAM PASSES MILESTONE OF 1,000 VISITS AND ENQUIRIES

A Council team set-up to help South Cambridgeshire's businesses re-open safely has passed the milestone of 1,000 interactions with local traders in a year. The District Council's Reopening High Streets Safely Team was established in July 2020 to support local small to medium sized businesses recover and reopen. During the last year, the small team of three officers has visited around 700 businesses to provide them with face-to-face advice, and dealt with more than 300 enquiries, concerns and queries.

VISIT SOUTH CAMBS - BUSINESS WEBSITE AND LISTINGS

South Cambs have launched a new business directory of businesses in the District. This is to try to boost local commerce now that we are coming out of Covid restrictions. Any viable, independent, business in South Cambridgeshire can apply to be listed on the website. It is essentially free advertising! - <https://www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk/>. please do register especially if you are a pub, restaurant, B and B, food retailer, holiday venue. And please do use it as a customer in order to ensure that you are spending your money locally and helping businesses in South Cambs to survive and thrive.

ELECTRIC BIN LORRIES

South Cambs is moving forward with its commitment to be Zero Carbon with the purchase of 2 more electric bin lorries. These vehicles are expensive but the savings that are made on fuel together with the environmental benefits means that they pay for themselves in a relatively short time.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH.

I am extremely pleased that for the second year running South Cambs will be running a programme of events for Black History Month. This year we are joining forces with Cambridge City Council and all of the talks and events will be accessible through both councils' websites. The programme is looking very interesting. Please do tune in. Hopefully next year we will be able to run in person activities too.

GROWTH FUND

Because of S Cambs success in getting all the government's Covid grants out quickly and efficiently to our businesses they now have an additional sum of Growth Fund money to spend. The £1,383,610.00 is not for businesses to survive Covid but for businesses that have survived to be able to grow and in so doing increase the number of people they employ, their turnover and their profits. So far £1,005,000 has been spent and this money has gone to 63 South Cambs businesses from a vast range of sectors with grants ranging in size from £2,500.00 to £50,000.00. If you have a business with potential to grow, contact the council's business support team for advice and support to apply for your share of the remaining £378,610.00

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

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CLLR FIROUZ THOMPSON – COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

HIGHWAYS

Highway's meeting took place on Friday 1 October at Oakington Sports Pavilion. Present were: County Highway Officer and Parish Chairs/Vice Chairs /Clerks from Longstanton, Over and Oakington & Westwick. All backdated and current issues were discussed and prioritised where possible. Next meeting will be in January date to be confirmed.

Residents are kindly reminded to report any problems on Highways using [Highways Reporting](#), as it will then be picked up by the LHOs to bring to these meetings. Please note: A pothole must be deeper than 40mm and wider than 75mm in any horizontal direction for the Council to intervene and fix. Further details can be found on the following link: [How long does it take to fix a road fault - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

You can also follow us on Twitter for updates on where we are working:

- [@CambsCC](#) or [@Cambs_Traffic](#)

OAKINGTON – HIGHWAYS UPDATES

GULLY MAINTENANCE was brought forward to Q3, we are now working to Q4. The delays have come on the back of severe weather leading to flooding, gully caps being stolen, petrol shortages and the condition of the gullies. We currently do not have a record of all our gullies across the county so as we

will be cleaning, we will also be recording. Due to a lack of maintenance over the years the gullies are taking longer to clean.

VERGES: the last cut of the verges will be this month. The Highways team are looking to update the County website and will look in the future to email Parish Council with verge cutting dates, this should be in place for 2022 verge maintenance timings or before and it will help with a lot of queries from Residents. Main concern is not knowing who the landowners for some of the verges are, I will look to work with PC and County on this. The other concern is that there are different opinions in certain roads across the village, some residents would like the verges cut and others prefer the wildflowers. It would be great if PC could discuss a few different options and possibly look to consult residents in the specific areas of the village in time for next year.

GUIDED BUSWAY PANELS: The 3 bus stop panels have now been replaced at the Oakington bus stop. One of the side panels in the cycle shelters has been smashed and debris has been cleared, the cycle panels are not normally replaced as they are the prime targets to be hit and as they only shelter cycles rather than people waiting for the bus it is not cost effective for Council to keep replacing.

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES AT THE CROSSROADS: These were painted in error by County's contractors, and we will be applying for a permanent traffic regulation order as part of phase two Cambridge Road shared-use path to apply to have them reinstated. I will look to discuss this error with County team and Parish Council.

PHASE 2 CAMBRIDGE ROAD SHARED-USE FOOD PATH: The design for this phase is currently with the Parish Council and is on the agenda for October meeting.

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 has 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 beat lorries, Highways officers will assess the area.

TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY GROUPS: It was great to attend September TAG meeting and discuss the local concerns and meet the dedicated team. I will look to attend the October EAG meeting and hope to rotate between the meetings. The agenda and minutes of these groups are shared with them and the group are aware that they can email me at anytime to discuss issues and concerns.

SOUTH ACCESS ROAD WEST AND CYCLE PATHS - Homes England solicitors held onto this contract for quiet a while and requested amendments and it is a complex non-standard legal agreement and it has taken time for County Highway Officers to go through the changes and iterations. The S278 final draft was approved by the County last week and the agreements will be sent to Legal team for sealing and completion once signed by Homes England. We understand Homes England are keen to start on the works as soon as possible. We cannot provide certainty that the works will be completed by Home England by the end of November, though we can provide assurance that the County is progressing matters swiftly with Homes England.

It was queried if it will be possible to open the SARW paths yet, unfortunately this is not possible, with the site still being a live construction site, and the works have not had a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit. Homes England would like to remind everyone that it is unsafe to enter the construction working area as large vehicles and machinery is still operating and they need to ensure everyone's safety.

PROPOSED TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER: on Hattons Road, Longstanton - 01/11/21-11/11/21. Homes England are aware of this TTRO and are trying to align these works with the commissioning of SARW, if possible once the S278 is finally agreed and executed.

PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CLOSURE: An update on Wilson's Road Bridleway design change, during the scheme development the final surfacing of the scheme was planned to be a 30mm depth of topsoil with a standard grass seed mix applied. This has now been changed to 30mm depth of granite dust graded 4mm to 0. In addition, a grass seed and wildflower mix is to be applied to the slopes either side of the new surface. This will help with biodiversity.

The reason for this change is that during construction a section of topsoil surface layer was placed as originally planned. Unfortunately, the nature of the locally sourced "as dug" topsoil which had then been sieved was rather wet / heavy. As a result, when cycles were ridden on the topsoil surface the ride quality was poor. From observation it was going to be difficult for wheelchair users or parents pushing a child's buggy to move easily and in fact even walking on it meant it clumped to foot ware. This did not meet the needs of the scheme in improving access for all users. In comparison the granite dust, which was already being laid as a lower surface drained really well, during and after heavy rain and was easy to ride / push wheeled items and walk along. The new surface has enough give for equestrians and meets all the requirements of the British Horse Society ideal surface guidance.

Works on site are still on schedule to finish on 15 October, assuming there are no problems with the weather.

M11: National Highways (formerly Highways England) will be carrying out maintenance work on the M11 to replace the expansion joints and re-waterproof the junction 9 bridge. They are also carrying out some resurfacing. The work is planned to be completed over 13 weeks to Monday 13 December, subject to weather conditions.

NORTHSTOWE PHASE 3A AND 3B

The Northstowe Phase 3A and Phase 3B Section 106 Agreement Draft Head of Terms report was presented at the Cambridgeshire County Council Environment and Green Investment Committee Thursday 16 September from 10am to 1pm.

Cllr Lorna Dupre, Chair of the committee, read out the following statement from me:

"The local Parish councils still have concerns about particular flood and draining issues and we would ask the Local Lead Flood Authority to correspond with the local planning authority SCDC to ensure that these matters can be adequately resolved prior of the granting of the planning permission."

Full report can be accessed on this link, it is item no. 4 on the agenda
[Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

The meeting can be viewed accessed on [Cambridgeshire County Council - YouTube](#)

We are looking to put in a place a few meetings with regards to the flood mitigations for Oakington with County Officers, Homes England, dates yet to be confirmed.

NORTHSTOWE SECONDARY COLLEGE – COMMUNITY OPEN MORNING

Northstowe Secondary College will be holding an Open Morning, 9am - 12pm on Saturday 16th October 2021 to allow members of the local community and families to look round the facilities that the Northstowe Secondary College has to offer. They had always intended to hold an open event for the local community and our families, but with the pandemic it has meant that those plans had to be delayed.

In order to help us to mitigate risk and maintain Covid-19 protocols, they are asking the community to book tickets for a specific timeslot 9-10am, 10-11am and 11-12noon

[Northstowe Secondary College - Community Open Morning - Sat 16th Oct 2021 Tickets, Sat 16 Oct 2021 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

The scheme will see thousands of trees planted between now and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next summer. 70 special trees, one for each year of her reign, will be given to schools in cities across the UK, including Spring Meadow in Ely.

Local individuals, schools, businesses, community groups, councils are all being encouraged to plant trees where appropriate to do so. The County Council's website includes advice on this, and the national Queen's Green Canopy website will soon include a map on which residents can mark the trees they have planted as part of the scheme.

In Cambridgeshire, the initiative is backed by the Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire Julie Spence. The County Council will be identifying some land in its ownership on which to plant trees.

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/>

[The Queen's Green Canopy Project - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

COMMUNITY AND THE CLIMATE

LOCAL CLIMATE LEADERS: Ahead of the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), Glasgow in November, the Council wishes to celebrate those individuals, businesses or community groups who've found meaningful ways to take positive environmental action, and so inspire others to help tackle the climate emergency. Please consider nominating any who fit this description, by emailing communications@cambridgeshire.gov.uk explaining why they deserve to be an ambassador for climate action in our area.

WATERCOURSE REINSTATEMENT GRANTS: The County Council has agreed to offer grants from a pot of money set up to ensure watercourses across the county are properly maintained. Applications may be made by established community flood groups and parish councils where a watercourse needs to be reinstated, and the riparian owner* either cannot be identified or genuinely cannot afford the works to reinstate their watercourse.

**A riparian owner is anyone who owns a property where there is a watercourse within or adjacent to the boundaries of their property. A watercourse includes a river, stream or ditch. A riparian owner is also responsible for watercourses or culverted watercourses passing through their land.*

The Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee has set criteria against which applications will be considered. It is expected that the work to bring the watercourse back up to standard would be one-off in nature, with them being regularly maintained thereafter.

LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: The County Council's Flood & Water team has been revising the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in the light of the growing recognition of climate change, and the flood events of last winter. The updated strategy will be considered by the Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee later this year.

OFFERING OF FLOOD TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS: free online flood incident training for community flood groups, and people looking to set up, or who have recently set up, community flood groups.

CCC Flood and Water Team are delivering with Communities Prepared as part of CCC's Community Flood Action Programme. The training offered takes place on the following evenings across October and November, and residents can sign up using the following links:

12 October, 6:00-8:15 pm – Cambridgeshire: **Incident Management** - https://bit.ly/CambsCP_IM

19 October, 6:00-8:15 pm – Cambridgeshire: **Flood Volunteer** - https://bit.ly/CambsCP_flood

26 October, 6:00-8:00 pm – Cambridgeshire: **CEV Coordinator** - https://bit.ly/CambsCP_CEV

3 November, 6:00-7:45 pm – Cambridgeshire: **Crisis Recovery** - https://bit.ly/CambsCP_recovery

10 November, 6:00-7:45 pm – Cambridgeshire: **Snow Volunteer** - https://bit.ly/CPCambs_snow

16 November, 6:00-7:45 pm – Cambridgeshire: **Utility Volunteer** - https://bit.ly/CambsCP_utility

The initial sessions on 12 and 19 October offer some background to the remaining 4 sessions. These initial sessions have previously already been held for communities in South Cambs however, we are

encouraging anyone in South Cambs who missed them the first time to join the offering to the rest of the county.

COUNTY WIDE NEWS

JOINT ADMINISTRATION UPDATES:

PEER CHALLENGE: The County Council invited the Local Government Association to send in a Peer Challenge team to look at how the council works. The team's report has now been published. The team found 'there are positive early signs that the joint administration in Cambridgeshire County Council is working collaboratively and there is a strong willingness to work together and create strategic plans to deliver against the future challenges and political ambition'.

The team's main recommendations are as follows.

1. Devise a strategic approach to financial strategic planning for Cambridgeshire as a place.
2. Ensure the budget planning process for 2022/23 addresses the medium-term budget gap and incorporates contingency planning.
3. Develop a member/officer strategic forum to consider the overarching picture of progress and outcomes across the organisation.
4. Take action to recalibrate member roles, behaviours and conduct.
5. Sustainable capacity in the Chief Executive role needs to be established for Cambridgeshire.
6. Embrace the opportunity to reset, clarify and rebuild the different roles for the Combined Authority, the Greater Cambridge Partnership, Cambridgeshire County Council, and District and Town and Parish Councils in place shaping and place delivery, and take the lead where appropriate.
7. There is a need to review 'This Land'.
8. Review the effectiveness of the new Committee system arrangements, including the role of scrutiny, in six months.
9. The use of short-term additional capacity should be considered to ensure that there is the necessary capability to both develop and deliver the savings programme and strategic financial plan.
10. Develop some shared services to deliver greater efficiencies through shared data and client record systems and a shared service Target Operating Model where appropriate.
11. Further develop the current organisational resource to better support wider transformation and innovation.

There were also some recommendations about the future of shared services with our partners.

[Cambridgeshire County Council - Corporate Peer Challenge Report](#)

PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY: The County Council's Constitution & Ethics Committee voted to recommend to the Full Council a new parental leave policy. The policy would allow six months maternity leave to councillors giving birth, adopting, fostering for adoption, or becoming surrogate parents, and two weeks paternity leave for biological, adoptive or surrogate fathers. The proposal is the result of a recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel, highlighting the positive benefits it could bring to attracting a more diverse group of people to become councillors.

HGV DRIVER SHORTAGES: The shortage of HGV drivers means the County Council is facing challenges in both home to school transport and school catering. These difficulties are being managed but are adding still more pressure for staff on top of Covid.

COVID-19 UPDATES

OVERVIEW: Covid cases are rising across the county, largely due to the return of schools. In Cambridgeshire 32 per cent of recorded Covid cases for the week ending 22 September were in the 10 to 14 age group. A further 11 per cent were amongst those aged 15 to 19. Secondary school students are being encouraged to test twice a week to help identify those who have Covid without symptoms. All adults are also being encouraged to use rapid lateral flow tests regularly as well.

There has also been a rise in the number of people aged 40+ testing positive, believed to be because children are taking the virus home to their parents or carers. This is of course concerning as it means more older people may catch Covid and we know that they are far more likely to suffer more severe symptoms and end up in hospital, particularly if they are unvaccinated.

VACCINATIONS: Vaccination take-up varies by district, with Cambridge around 10 per cent behind the rest of the country which of course is concerning. In the other areas, acceptance rates are largely in line with the national average.

The end of September saw vaccinations starting to be offered to 12-15 year olds in secondary schools. Vaccinating this age group should also help to reduce the need for young people to have time off school and reduce the risk of spread of the virus within schools. Education and public health teams continue to work closely with schools to manage the high number of Covid cases and to ensure that schools can continue to keep children learning in the classroom.

Vaccination bookings www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19
Vaccination walk-in centres and pop-up clinics www.thevaccinators.co.uk

The Government has decided to end the shielding scheme for clinically vulnerable people. The County Council is therefore writing to everyone on the local shielding list to ensure they are aware of this. They will also receive a letter from the Government. The Countywide coordination hub, which has supported thousands of people since the start of the pandemic, will continue to operate, alongside a network of support hubs across the county, with anyone in need of help urged to get in touch.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Community support - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

The Government has extended the financial payments available to help people self-isolate, until the end of next March. These payments support people who will lose income as a result of having to self-isolate and will struggle to pay their bills or buy food and essentials.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-support-to-self-isolate>

TESTING: Mobile rapid testing vehicles continue to visit sites across the county, offering on-the-spot lateral flow tests as well as test 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

INFORMATION:

<https://twitter.com/CambsCC>

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

ADULTS AND HEALTH

HOSPITAL WAITING LISTS: 5.45M people across the UK are waiting for hospital treatment following the COVID-19 pandemic. Healthwatch Cambridgeshire would like to hear from residents if they or a loved one have been affected by cancellations or delayed treatment, operations or appointments. They have published a short online survey for residents to complete.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SQVSJO?ct>

EDUCATION

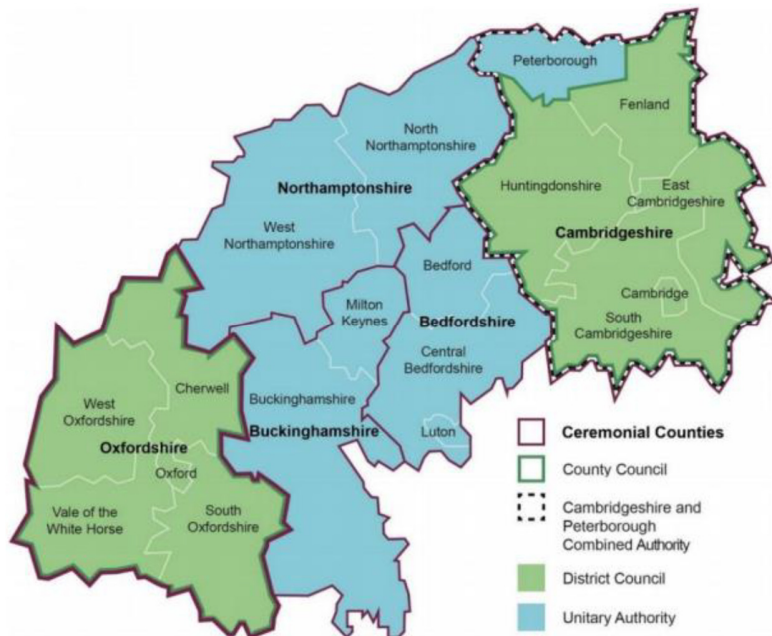
APPLY NOW FOR A SEPTEMBER 2022 SCHOOL PLACE: The application process for children who need a school place in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough for September 2022 has started. Any child transferring from primary school to secondary school next year must apply for a place by 31 October this year. Children due to start at primary or junior school next September must complete their application by 15 January 2022. Online applications are encouraged. Children starting at primary or junior school will be notified about their school place on national offer day 19 April 2022. Those applying to secondary school will be offered a place on 1 March 2022.

CARBON DIOXIDE MONITORS: The government have announced that they will be providing [all schools with carbon dioxide monitors](#). They will enable schools to quickly identify where ventilation needs to be improved. We are not expecting these to be available until October half term and we will be providing further advice to schools when they are available.

RENEWABLES: Schools across Cambridgeshire will be supported in replacing gas and oil boilers with cleaner, greener heating systems thanks to a new model of funding approved by Cambridgeshire County Council, which will speed up the process and make it easier for work to be carried out. We have agreed that a combination of capital and loan funding could be used to supplement any grants, to help cover the costs of retrofitting Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) systems in council-maintained schools where existing boilers need to be replaced. Additional measures such as LED lighting, solar panels and energy management systems will be installed at each school to offset energy costs and to help achieve the council's commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

OXCAM ARC PRINCIPLES

The County Council is responding to the Government consultation on the principles of the OxCam Arc, an area of proposed growth from Oxford to Cambridge. This is a Government initiative, not a County Council one. The amount and detail of information within the consultation is not sufficient to respond with any detail or certainty.



The Council is engaging in the Government process, but this should not in any way be construed as endorsement of what is being put forward. The Council's response says that any growth must be led through the Local Plan process and justified by need, and should enhance and complement existing communities. It should demonstrate how it will help achieve the county's net zero carbon aspirations and contribute to maximising positive health and wellbeing outcomes for all. Water management should be considered early on. New growth areas should facilitate opportunities for public transport, and active travel should be prioritised.

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 to the parish clerk or a councillor and they will point you in the right direction. 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

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Firouz Thompson: firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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