

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT- LONGSTANTON WARD

COVERING LONGSTANTON, OAKINGTON & WESTWICK & NORTHSTOWE

JULY 2021

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

CALL FOR SITES – OAKINGTON & LONGSTANTON

Landowners and developers putting forward sites for more houses in Oakington and Longstanton.

We have written about before in previous reports (and posted on social media), but it has caused some confusion and concern locally, so we are sharing this information again. We understand that the current figures on provision for land for house building are good, so we do not foresee a lot of these village sites being taken forward to the next stage, but we will have more information in September. Parish Councils will be invited directly to briefings and advised of consultations on the call for sites and the next stages of the Local Plan development. We will of course update on this in our reports.

Developers were invited to put forward sites where they wanted to build more houses across South Cambs District as part of the process of developing the local plan, which will set out how and where development should happen across the area.

We put out information on the call for sites when it was first published. There were over 600 sites submitted by landowners in the call for sites. None of them has been assessed or filtered - none of them has any planning status. As in the previous plan it is likely that only a fraction of these 600 sites will be chosen, only 10% of submitted sites were ultimately included in the last local plan.

The details of the sites that were put forward for the whole district are publicly available (there were also public webinars at the time this happened, which we also shared on our social media, many of these can still be accessed online if people are interested)

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/document-library/site-submissions/>

The easiest way to view the sites that have been suggested is via the online interactive map which you can find by following the link below. Search via postcode to see sites near you and you can click on the sites to see further details of who has submitted it and what is being proposed.

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/document-library/site-submissions/>

We agree with the need for affordable housing in the district generally as it is far too expensive for many young people and young families to live here, and we need to ensure people are not priced out of

living in our area. However locally we feel that this demand is being met by the development of Northstowe.

OAKINGTON

Sites in Oakington are mainly off Water Lane, including one for sheltered accommodation that we understand has now been proposed for an alternate site not on this map.

As District Cllrs we would oppose the inclusion of additional sites in Oakington as we believe the demand locally for affordable housing is being more than adequately met by Northstowe. However, we would be guided by the Parish Council and residents' views especially on smaller housing parcels which might be acceptable to the community. However, we stress there is at this stage no decision on whether any sites in Oakington would be included. There will be further consultations in Autumn.

LONGSTANTON

Sites in Longstanton are mainly in the St Michaels end of the village and a triangular patch by School Lane and Home Farm Road. Note there is an additional site by Home Farm Road, this is an old application from Home Farm Development, which has now lapsed. There is a parcel of employment land adjacent to this for which no planning permission has been sought but is in our current Local Plan.

Our stance as District Cllrs is that we would oppose the inclusion of additional sites in Longstanton as we believe the demand locally for affordable housing is being more than adequately met by Northstowe. However, there is at this stage no decision that any sites in Longstanton would be included anyway. There will be further consultations in Autumn.

PROPOSED PERMANENT CLOSURE OF AIRFIELD ROAD/LONGSTANTON ROAD

This consultation closed already on 7th July 2021, so we are attaching the below for information.

Proposed permanent traffic restriction order for the 'Airfield Road' between Longstanton and Oakington.

There is currently a temporary order in place prohibiting the use of the old 'Airfield Road' by motorised vehicles. A proposal has now been submitted to make this permanent. The new order would prohibit all motorised vehicles on Oakington Road, Longstanton from a point 460 metres southeast of its junction with Wilson's Road to Longstanton Road, Oakington and Westwick at a point 370 metres northwest of its junction with Lowbury Crescent.

Access for pedestrians, cyclists & equestrians will be maintained with provision for access for adjacent agricultural landowners and emergency service vehicles. They are proposing installing box steel gates (to replace the current concrete barriers) which would have a 1.5m gap which would allow access for horses and other users.

The draft Order, together with a map showing the roads and lengths of road concerned and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order can be found via this link below.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/traffic-regulation-orders/permanent-traffic-regulation-orders#proposed-tro--reference-number-pr-----oakington-road--longstanton-8-o>

NORTHSTOWE PHASE 1 – ENTERPRISE ZONE & LOCAL CENTRE

SCDC have opened the first round of consultation on the development of the local centre and enterprise zone on Northstowe Phase 1. The survey can be accessed via the link below.

We are very happy to see that residents are being given the opportunity to give their views and shape the development of this important area in Northstowe. It was exactly the reason we championed SCDC taking on this land to develop. Getting local people involved in shaping these plans from an early stage is key.

This is an excellent opportunity for the local community to give their views. We will be making sure that we listen closely to what we hear, so that we can work with residents from Northstowe and surrounding villages to build facilities that will work for us all. Residents really do know their area best, so we are looking forward to hearing about your aspirations!

There will be an online workshop on Monday 19th July 2021. If you would like to attend, please email northstowe@ar-urbanism.com – Parish Councils will be invited directly.

The deadline for the survey is 31st July.

https://www.scambs.gov.uk/help-shape-northstowe-local-centre-and-enterprise-zone?fbclid=IwAR2zJu7COKDormrhNgScZ9fnur2tkYcnVv_pHQdnUYoU9AfcWjsRnellfwO

LONGSTANTON CONSERVATION AREA

There has been some confusion regarding Longstanton Conservation Area being reappraised. This reappraisal is not being proposed.

There is a piece of work called the Reappraisal of the Conservation Areas being proposed for the whole District, of the 84 conservation areas across the South Cambs only 22 have been appraised. Longstanton Conservation area was reappraised in 2005 and so it was not considered a priority to be redone. We agree with this view, one shared by Longstanton Parish Council.

Due to a complaint that was received regarding the original appraisal officers wanted to consider whether it needed to be looked at again. The confusion arose from a document posted on 3rd March in something called the Forward Plan, that a report (including an assessment of the need to re-appraise Longstanton) would go the Cabinet. Notifications of key decisions like this being considered by Cabinet need to be made at least 28 days in advance, but we are not routinely notified.

We were though as councillors contacted by the officer who was preparing a report to go Cabinet on 5th July, where they asked for our view on whether this was necessary, and we have said we do not think it needs to be done.

This report recommended the following – and this has been accepted by Cabinet. The decision notice will be published on 7th July 2021 and there is a 5-day window for the decision to be called in.

Based upon the prioritisation work of the service, it is recommended that Cabinet confirms that it will not be prioritising a review of the Longstanton Conservation Area at this time. Reasons for Recommendations 7. With so many Conservations Area reviews to be done it is important to establish criteria for approaching the review of Conservation Areas. The Shared Planning Service Conservation Team having developed a prioritisation approach do not consider that Longstanton Conservation Area is a priority for review in comparison with other Conservation Areas in the District which include those with older designations; those have never been reviewed; or are in a potential development area/corridor; or have been identified as being at risk.

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s122502/Cabinet%20Report%20-%20CA%20programme%20incl%20Longstanton%20CA%2024.06.21.pdf>

OAKINGTON PLANNING UPDATES

DEVELOPMENT OF 2 BED HOUSE ON LONGSTANTON ROAD

The following has been approved (subject to call in)

The purpose of this Decision Notice is to give approval for South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) to enter into a contract subject to planning permission, to purchase land from Sue Stephenson at nil cost apart from relevant legal fees etc, in order to develop and construct a 2-bedroom house for her two granddaughters to reside in.

The site is situated adjacent to Mrs Sue Stephenson's property as landowner she will enter into an agreement with the council to transfer the ownership of the land to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The site is of a sufficient size to construct a 2-bedroom house only. The property will be in the ownership of South Cambridgeshire District Council and will be included in its housing stock.

Mrs Stephenson is next of kin for her 2 grand daughters who are both in their early 20s and have learning difficulties. The granddaughters will be granted a tenancy to reside in the property, based on their current income they may be entitled to universal credit and possibly housing benefit.

Enabling/Strategic support

Strategic Housing fully support this development as the property will be meeting the needs of a disabled household.

We also expressed support for this proposal but have requested that planning engage with the Parish Council and residents at an early stage to ensure they are happy with the proposed design of the property.

Full details: <https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=11645>

COTTENHAM GROVE (LACK OF) UPDATE

Latest from Planning officer:

As it stands the LHA have informally/verbally confirmed acceptance of the latest information, but I do not yet have formal written confirmation of this. I also need confirmation that the amended management arrangements for the permeable paving are acceptable before the application can be approved. I am sorry that I do not have a more positive update and will chase County on these matters.

MILLEN HOMES

As District Councillors we have not been contacted by these developers but have spoken to Parish Chair Stephen Moore on this as well as Andrew Thompson, principal planner for Northstowe.

The site forms part of the wider Northstowe allocation and backs on to Manor Farm Close. However as previously stated Greater Cambs Planning have not been approached for pre-app advice or otherwise to comment. We understand the Parish have been approached prior to this engagement - we do need to also check whether this forms part of Northstowe town council remit. The issues with application are not in principle per se (although Northstowe will be delivering over the 10,000 allocation and a fair proportion of self-build), but with the matters of detail. Policies NS/4 and NS/13 on green separation would be a significant hurdle for this application. There are matters of ecology, access, and the field drain to deal with (amongst others). We know that the parish council will raise their concerns/comments with the developer and we as councillors would fully support your objections to this proposal.

NORTHSTOWE UPDATES

NEXT NORTHSTOWE FORUM

This will be on Weds 14th July 7pm and held online. www.scambsm.gov.uk/northstowe-forum

NORTHSTOWE RUNNING FESTIVAL

Reminder for this event - Join Northstowe Running Festival runs on the flat courses around Northstowe and Northstowe Water Park on Saturday the 5th of September. All ages and abilities welcome.

The festival ground is open and FREE to enter to everyone and will offer a plethora of attractions including food trucks and stalls raising money for schools. Sign up for the run today and if you have a few spare hours, do consider volunteering at the event by helping on the water, bag drop off and medals stations or alternative be a marshal around the course. Further details www.northstowerunfest.co.uk.

Profit from the 5k Fun Run and Family Mile will be donated to 4 local schools: Northstowe Secondary School, Martin Bacon Academy, Pathfinder and Hatton Park primary schools. Invite your friends and family and join the festival fun with us! September 5th - save the date!

OUTDOOR GYM

We're pleased to confirm that the outdoor gym SCDC installed at Northstowe Town is now ready for people living in and around Northstowe to use

We encourage users to bring their own wipes to clean the equipment at Pioneer Park before and after use. There is a foot sanitiser pump that is being installed.

NORTHSTOWE PLANNING UPDATES

Substation off Station Road, Oakington – this application has been withdrawn. Concerns have been raised by planning on short/long-term access, accuracy on the plans themselves as well as the design. Some concerns raised on noise and electro-magnetic disturbance can be controlled and the location whilst not ideal is within the right zone for usage.

Northstowe Phase 2 – Town centre parameter plans, these have been resubmitted following an issue with building heights and is now compliant.

Linden LAPS – a long while ago, Linden were given permission to work on 2 Sunday's outside of conditions and in return were to remove the fencing around the LAPs on their plots and put in the landscaping. This is still outstanding despite chasing from planning, this has been chased again.

Keepmoat Phase 2 – we were pleased to see the developers took on board our request to reduce the building height of houses that face the Rampton Drift play area, so they are now fully compliant with the Design Code for Phase 2. The deadline for comments on this application has now passed. Thanks to Northstowe Town Council for the comments they submitted. Our comments on this application can be viewed via the planning portal.

HATTON ROAD PONDS

As discussed with Cllr de la Mare-Lyon, South Cambs are reviewing the potential adoption of the Hatton Road Ponds by South Cambs and the potential adoption of the landscaped area by Longstanton Parish Council. Sarah and Alex will be meeting officers to discuss next steps in the next few weeks.

WESTMINSTER CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY CHANGES

The boundary commission has created new constituency boundaries with the aim of making constituency population numbers more equal, reflecting demographic and population changes.

For us, the proposals are that we are no longer in South Cambs constituency and instead will be in one called St Neots, together with villages such as Girton, Histon & Impington, Over, Willingham, Cambourne and St Neots. Cottenham meanwhile would go into East Cambridgeshire and Cherry Hinton would be part of the new South Cambs constituency.

You can view the exact changes and register your views on these proposals via the link below.

<https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>

CLLR FIROUZ THOMPSON – COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

HIGHWAYS

At the last Quarterly highways meeting on 18 June, all the Parishes within my division: Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington & Westwick and Over, met at Longstanton Village Hall (thank you to Cllr Dan de la Mare-Lyon for hosting). Present were: Two Local Highway Officers (LHO) and Parish Chairs/Vice Chairs and Clerks. All back-dated and current issues were discussed and prioritised where possible. Going forward I will meet with LHO fortnightly and next quarterly meeting will be in September. I have also put in place a collaborative highways document with the Parishes to update on all raised issues so that they are all in one place and we will look to using this to track issues going forwards.

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](#)

B1050 BAR HILL TO NORTHSTOWE

Several potholes have been marked up between the first stretch of B1050 approaching from the Bar Hill junction and they should be filled within 21 days. The section where the new junction road finishes and the existing B1050 meet has been problematic for some time and the maintenance team after several attempts of patching up that section have been unsuccessful to find a solution. We do ask residents to ensure they slow down upon approach of this part of the road as a few cars have damaged their tyres. We are looking at ways of troubleshooting this problem and are continuing to push for the new SARW to be opened.

The Flooding on the B1050 near the roundabout approaching Longstanton and Northstowe has been fixed. The verge on the side of the road was higher than the road itself, hence the water would become a pool on the side of the road. The side of the road now contains several drains to help with the drainage of the rainwater.

LONGSTANTON

WILSON'S ROAD BRIDLEWAY: Concerns have been raised by Swavesey & District Bridleways Association at the end of May over the proposed surfacing of this bridleway. The section in question forms part of Highways England's A14 Non-Motorised User Route Investment, which was approved by Highways & Transport Committee back in January 2021. The above change in surfacing is permitted

development for Cambridgeshire County Council to undertake as Highway Authority. No public consultation was undertaken, as the status of the bridleway remains unchanged by this new proposed scheme.

Following a meeting on site in June, to discuss the issues raised with regards to the surfacing, County officers reevaluated the proposed material and the County will be adopting similar methodology to surface bridleways used at The Lake District National Park which is a World Heritage site. This methodology is compliant with British Horse Society published guidance and will consist of several layers of materials, geoweb, fine granite and top dressed in soil and then seeded. It has also been proposed as this is the first time that such surfacing has been used in the County, that we undertake a 6-month check after completion, to inspect the surface of the bridleway after an initial period of usage with the concerned parties.

A further virtual meeting took place on 7 July with Cllr Dan de la Mare-Lyon, Cllr Annmaria Brash-Hall from Longstanton Parish Council, Sue Rogers and Tina Yates from Swavesey & District Bridleways Association and Lynda Warth, County Access & Bridleways Officer, Cambs/British Horse Society and several County Officers and County Cllr Edna Murphy and myself where we discussed the project further. The County Council will be setting out its final view to the concerned parties over the next few weeks.

THATCHER'S WOOD: Surface dressing treatment, Micro/Gripfibre is scheduled starting 14 September for three days. Road will be closed whilst the work is in progress with a diversion, unless stated otherwise. Please note dates may change at short notice as surface dressing is dependent on the weather.

OAKINGTON AND WESTWICK

A14 LEGACY FUND: This fund was successful for the speed calming in Oakington, A14 Legacy team and Highways England handed over this scheme to County Council 4 months ago as they struggled to resource. This week the design and timelines were shared with Parish Council to feedback.

SHARED-USE PATH IMPROVEMENTS OAKINGTON TO GIRTON: County Council has recently finished the Phase 1 of widening the shared-use path along Oakington Road, between Brook and Gatehouse Road to benefit walking and cycling. We have also tightened the junction at Gatehouse Road to improve visibility for path users and carried out some improvements to the pinch point into Oakington to improve the flow along the paths. This was funded by Highways England, as mitigation for the A14 works. Phase 2 will look to primarily be widening the path from Gatehouse Road to Oakington, subject to design. This will be funded by S106 money from Northstowe. The design is currently being developed and it is due to go to Parish Council at their September meeting, with a view to look at completing the final design by scheduled to be completed early in the new year.

BUS SHELTER ON GUIDED BUS: Clear Channel who maintain bus shelters on the guided bus route have visited site to check the damage and they are looking to replace the three bus shelter panels. The panels will be replaced with Poly sheets (previously glass) and will be replaced within the next 6 weeks.

POTHLES: Several potholes across Oakington have been marked and works to complete will be within 21 days. It is confirmed that 15 potholes were filled in Queensway.

GULLIES: Early May the drains on Water Lane beside Oakington Primary School were jetted due to a flooding concern. Local Highway Officer has reported that the nearby Willow Tree roots may have caused drain damage. There is a planned drains camera inspection to further investigate.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND COUNTY COMMITTEES

NORTHSTOWE SECONDARY COLLEGE (NSC): meeting held with Mrs Moss, Headteacher in early July to talk about the travel plans of the pupils, as concerns have been raised by parents of near misses during drop off and pick up. We have raised concerns with Homes England and L&Q. I will also be working with the County Council and Think Communities team to look at ways of improving the cycle routes to and from NSC and Martin Bacon Academy (MBA) from all surrounding villages. There are also plans for students to be involved from September.

COMMUNITY GYM AND CAFÉ: NSC are looking to open the community gym and café early next year. A survey was launched but will be re-opened again shortly to get further feedback from the community.

THINK COMMUNITIES: Met with the team at the County Council. Scott Liddle, Community Connector is currently working onsite at Northstowe on several projects with Longstanton resident Mari O'Neil:

- Community Café – Wed 1.30-3.30pm at Northstowe Wing.
- Foodbank – Wed 9.30-1pm at Northstowe Wing
- Community Art Pavilions – placed between NSC and MBA

DISTRICT AND COUNTY WIDE NEWS

NEW GROWTH FUND FOR GROWING BUSINESSES

A new grant scheme has launched for South Cambridgeshire based micro and small to medium sized businesses looking to scale and grow.

The Growth Fund scheme, using funding provided by Government, is designed to support businesses' growth and expansion plans in the district. Eligible applicants for the scheme must be South Cambridgeshire based start-ups who are looking to scale and grow quickly, or they can be established South Cambridgeshire based companies who can clearly demonstrate ambitious growth plans in the District. Businesses in any sectors can apply, including, sole traders and partnerships. One-off grants of between £1,000 and £50,000 may be awarded to successful applicants.

Cllr Peter McDonald, Lead Cabinet Member for Business said: "As Government Coronavirus restrictions ease, the Council is keen to support businesses from all sectors that may have put their growth ambitions on hold during the pandemic and help businesses recover and thrive in the District.

"The Growth Fund scheme is aimed at supporting local micro and SME businesses, with plans to expand. The scheme is open to businesses from all sectors affected by local and national restrictions. In

particular, we will be prioritising those who were ineligible for the rate paying schemes such as the Local Restrictions Support Grant and Restart Grant. We also really want to encourage businesses with strong green credentials to apply, to kickstart a green pandemic recovery in South Cambridgeshire.”

All grants require an online application form to be completed. Full details and eligibility criteria on the Growth Fund Scheme, along with information about how to apply, can be found on our website: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/business-support-and-advice/growth-fund-grant-scheme/>. A handy 'How to Apply' guide is also available on the website.

The scheme will end when all funds have been allocated.

ADULTS AND HEALTH

THANK YOU TO OUR GP SURGERIES: GP surgeries are under unprecedented pressure with an enormous backlog of patient need, in many cases with medical conditions having worsened through time and Covid-inflicted delay. We would like to say thank you to everyone supporting our GP practices, from nurses and GPs and dispensary staff to receptionists answering incoming calls.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S MULTI-MILLION GOVERNMENT FUNDING GAP FOR SOCIAL CARE: Adult social care is overwhelmingly the biggest financial obligation of the County Council, with need steadily increasing as our population ages and requires more complex care.

“Cambridgeshire’s Adult Social Care budget is dependent on over £25m in government grant funding that is not confirmed to be continuing in the long-term, which is nearly 10% of our budget. We are also seeing costs increase each year as demand for our services rises, with around £50m of additional funding needed over the next five years.

Despite being some of the fastest growing local authorities, shire counties have consistently received less funding from government than other types of council. In 2021/22 shire counties received between a third and a half less funding than other councils.”

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/local-social-care-champions-support-national-plea-for-more-funding>

HEALTHY WEIGHT: The Adults & Health Committee has also made the decision to renew its programme of awareness about healthy weight. In 2018/19 62.8 per cent of people nationally were overweight or obese. The cost of obesity to the NHS each year is £5.1 billion, rising to £27 billion if costs to the wider economy are included. The cost of malnutrition in England was estimated to be £19.6 billion per year in 2011/12, more than 15 per cent of the total public expenditure on health and social care. About half is expenditure is related to older people, and the other half to younger adults and children.

ENVIRONMENT

OUSE WASHES EXHIBITION AND WORKS: The Environment Agency has launched an online virtual exhibition room to provide residents with information about this year’s and next year’s planned work on the Ouse Washes. The exhibition will be open until the **end of July** at <https://eaousewashesbanks.co.uk/>

Works for this year

- June—July: Haul road repairs and topsoil slip repairs
- July—October: Repair flood damage sustained during the winter
- July—October: Finish the bank raising work between
- Welney and the railway bridge
- Welches Dam and the railway bridge
- A142, Mepal and Welches Dam
- September—October: Install the remaining two bird hides at the RSPB Reserve
- October: Reinstatement of the haul road.

MINERALS & WASTE LOCAL PLAN: The Planning Inspector has judged the draft Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals & Waste Local Plan to be 'sound', provided it includes his main modifications to it. The County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee agreed to recommend adoption of the Plan to the Full Council on 20 July. Because this is a joint plan, this will only take effect if Peterborough Council also agrees to adopt the Plan as modified by the Inspector.

MILTON RECYCLING CENTRE CONSULTATION: The County Council has launched a consultation on plans for the recycling centre at Milton. The centre's planning permission expires in 2026, and it is proposed to enhance and expand the existing facility whilst 'future proofing' it to meet the needs of the local growing population. The consultation closes on **Tuesday 27 July** and is at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/milton-HRC-consultation

CLIMATE STRATEGY: The County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee has agreed to review the Council's climate and environment strategies by December 2021 with a view to bringing forward its net-zero target towards 2030. The Committee will develop a Route map to Net-Zero and Doubling Nature Programme by March 2022.

LOW CARBON SCHOOLS: The Committee has also agreed a new funding model for projects to move heating at maintained schools off carbon and onto renewable energy. The aim is to make this viable in more schools and use a broader range of technologies, which may in turn allow better long-term management of energy costs.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

As you may be aware, each year the district council completes an annual report showing how many home adaptations for disabled and older people have been completed. This year's report is attached and a link to previous reports and our website is here: <https://www.cambshia.org/about-us/plans-and-performance/>.

Given the challenges in 2020/21, I am really pleased to report that although the number of adaptations completed and the spend was lower than in previous years, we still managed to complete 166 adaptations investing over £2m to enabling residents to live more independently in their own home.

Our service works closely with Occupational Therapists who were heavily redeployed to primary care services because of the pandemic – we look forward to a busy year ahead as these critical services resume.

If you or a relative needs help to stay in their own home, please contact hia@cambshia.org

SETTLED STATUS

The deadline for EU citizens to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme has now passed. However, the process is difficult, many long-term residents have not realised they need to apply (they were promised in 2016 that their right to remain would be automatic), and there are a large number of residents who have therefore not completed—or even begun—their applications and who are therefore at risk of losing homes, jobs, and basic rights such as healthcare. I have been working with another councillor on a motion to the Full Council meeting on 20 July to ensure the Council continues to support these residents.

INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND

The next deadline to apply to Cambridgeshire County Council's Innovate & Cultivate Fund is **Sunday 1 August**. The fund supports projects that strengthen communities and reduce pressure on County Council services. The fund is open to voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises in and outside Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. This round is for applications for 'Cultivate' projects (£2,000-£15,000) which build community support networks for vulnerable people. 'Innovate' grants (£15,000-£50,000) are currently suspended.

The Council has advice for seven different off-the-peg project ideas to help people remain independent and active in their community, encourage volunteering, and complement more costly Council services.

You can find guidance on how to apply for a start-up grant for each of these projects at

<https://data.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/dataset/cultivate-project-ideas>

- Mobile Warden Schemes
- Community Youth Worker
- Digital Inclusion
- Timebanks
- Good Neighbour Schemes
- Dementia-Friendly Communities

You can find application forms and more information on the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) website <http://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>

HIGHWAYS

LHI BIDS FOR NEXT YEAR: The Highways & Transport Committee have now opened the new application window for Local Highway Improvement schemes to be delivered in 2022/23, details are as follows.

- Application window opened: Monday 30 June 2021
- Application window closes: **Monday 2 August 2021 (midday)**
- Feasibility studies undertaken: August to October 2021
- Panel meetings: December—January 2021/22
- Report to committee including prioritised list for approval: March 2022.

This will mean the winter period can be used to begin designing schemes for delivery from 1 April 2022, making use of the summer weather for delivery rather than design, although formal approval will not yet have been given.

Further details here: [Local Highway Improvement funding - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

COVID-19 UPDATES

CASES: Nationally and locally COVID-19 cases continue to rise sharply, largely due to the Delta variant, with an expectation of a third wave of infections peaking in early August. The proposed lifting of social restrictions on Monday 19 July come what may can only make this more likely.

Health professionals are concerned at significant rises in numbers of cases in Cambridge, along with low levels of vaccination there. Most cases are in the 18-30 population. A team is working with the city council and universities on this. Cases per 100,000 population at end June Cambridgeshire 92 South Cambridgeshire 101 Cambridge 216 In East Cambridgeshire rates are also rising but remain below regional and national averages.

VACCINATIONS: Further walk-in clinics for those needing their first or second doses of the vaccine are due to be announced by the local Clinical Commissioning Group in the coming days. The walk-in clinics are designed to help drive up vaccination rates ahead of the planned national easing of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions on July 19. Alternatively, appointments can be booked at www.nhs.uk

TESTING: Mobile rapid 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.

More information about accessing rapid testing can be found online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

INFORMATION: Do check the Council's public health information messages about COVID which are updated regularly.

<https://twitter.com/CambsCC>

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

EDUCATION

COVID TESTING: Secondary school pupils also need to rapid test twice a week, to try and reduce the spread of the virus in schools. Testing rates in secondary schools have fallen but young people continue to be carriers of the disease even though they may not be aware, so regular testing is important.

Schools and colleges can supply students with Lateral Flow Test (LFT) kits to self-swab. These can be taken home to complete and should be done twice a week.

SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS: The County Council's Children & Young People Committee and The Strategy & Resources Committee both agreed to provide supermarket vouchers over the summer holidays for families entitled to free school meals. The scheme over the summer holidays is expected to cost around £1.61m, rising to £1.91m including free summer holiday scheme places for 4 weeks. The Government has allocated £1.37m to Cambridgeshire for the summer through the Covid Local Support Grant, meaning the council will provide a further £537k to deliver on its summer support plans.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS- Holiday Activities and Food Programme: The programme is aimed at providing healthy food and enriching activities for primary and secondary school aged children who are eligible for benefit related free school meals. During the Summer holidays, eligible children will be able to access four, four-hour sessions for four weeks of the holiday, at no cost. The sessions will include a healthy meal and a variety of exciting activities and sports. Further details can be found, to either check if your child is eligible and book your place, visit [Holiday Activities and Food Programme](#).

LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN CONSULTATION

Cambridgeshire County Council has begun [a consultation](#) on the creation of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Cambridgeshire. Please do add your thoughts and feedback.

This Plan is an early-stage policy document which seeks to outline new and existing walking and cycling routes and consider which routes should be created or improved, as and when funding becomes available. In many cases, it may be several years before monies come forward for these projects and works can take place. However, identifying the best routes and putting a Plan in place means that the County will be in the best position to bid for future Government funding and progress new cycling and walking routes.

[Please look at the proposals](#). Are these the right routes for the local area? Are there alternatives routes which we should consider? Please let the County Council know your thoughts [via the survey](#). The consultation is available through to the end of the day on **Tuesday 13 July 2021**. Respondents are invited to complete the survey and/or mark cycleways and footpaths they would like to see created or prioritised on our map. This information will then be analysed and presented to the County Council's Highways and Transport Committee for their review.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

APPRENTICESHIP FUNDING: Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed to transfer £273,000 of its apprenticeship levy fund to K-10, an organisation set up to support apprenticeships in the construction industry.

K-10 will work with award winning housebuilder Hill to find placements for the 21 apprentices in the county, allowing them to gain skills and qualifications in plumbing, electrical, carpentry, groundworks, dry-lining, bricklaying, and painting.

As a levy paying employer, the council is able to transfer 25% of unused, annual levy funds to other employers that wish to utilise apprenticeships to train their staff. As the transfer of funds would support employment for Cambridgeshire residents on major construction projects with Hill, the funding transfer was approved.

All the apprenticeship positions are full time with the first year pay rate being £8.36 per hour. Apprentices will all be studying at colleges or training providers within the county for the duration of their apprenticeships.

K10 is recruiting now, so if you know of anyone aged 18 or above who may be interested in one of these fantastic opportunities, please encourage them to apply at www.k-10.co.uk/vacancies or send their CV directly to K10 at mahbub-uddin@k-10.co.uk.

LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP: The Cambridgeshire Learning Disability Partnership (LDP) brings together specialist health and social care services for people with a learning disability. The LDP is responsible for commissioning and providing these services on behalf of Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust and Cambridgeshire County Council. Some staff are employed by the County Council and some by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Trust, but they are all part of the LDP.

The roles currently available are: Nurses, Lead Nurse for Adults with Learning Disabilities, Senior Community Nurse, Psychologists, Principal Clinical/Counselling Psychologist, Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist- Huntingdon, Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist- March, Occupational Therapists, Specialist Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapists, Physiotherapist, Lead Physiotherapist. Please click here for latest vacancies: <https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/latest-vacancies>

COMBINED AUTHORITY (MAYOR) UPDATES

The new mayor is moving forward with bus franchising proposals. Currently 90% of bus services are commercial and councils therefore have no control over their routes, frequencies, or fares. We know that we urgently need at least a 24% shift to public transport from cars to reduce carbon emissions significantly. and this will not happen unless we have attractive public transport alternatives.

The draft business case is expected in the Autumn prior to plans going out to public consultation. Bridget and the leader of the county council appealed for subsidised travel for young people as we are well aware that in rural villages getting young people to education or training is a real problem if you do not have access to a car.

The Mayor declined to declare a Climate Emergency but has established a Lead Member role for Climate Change and Environment which he has offered to Bridget Smith. The CPCA Board voted, not unanimously, to accept all the recommendations of the recently completed Independent Climate Change Commission which focused on moving us swiftly to Zero Carbon. It is extremely disappointing that not all members of the board accepted that rewetting peat is absolutely critical to minimising carbon emissions in our region and that future drying out of peat will in fact cause vast quantities of carbon to be released into the atmosphere with all the dreadful consequences we all know so much about.

The Combined Authority has been awarded £172k to run a career hub for next year. It will involve 30 schools and colleges and will hopefully help to get our young people into training and jobs that will well support their futures.

COUNCILLORS 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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