

Annual Parish Meeting for Oakington & Westwick – 31 March 2025

Parish Council Chair's report

When I made a count of clubs, societies, groups, associations active in the parish I reached twenty-one, although that may not be a definitive number! They are all run by parish residents who regularly give their time and effort for the benefit and enjoyment, education and wellbeing of the membership they serve. Voluntarism forms the basis and fabric of community life in the parish and must be cherished, but there are some tears in this precious fabric. The most recent edition of the Journal recorded vacancies in seven areas. Hopefully these vacancies will soon be filled. I've spent many hours over the years volunteering in varied activities: exhibition stand construction for the RSPB, school governorship, marshalling aeroplanes at RAF Duxford, for example, and so I can vouch for the enjoyment and satisfaction that volunteering can bring.

Up to date information on matters that were talked about at last year's meeting.

The conifers on Dry Drayton Road are gone, and soon it is hoped, we will see new hedges and a fence planted.

The 3G surface is now up and running (!). It replaces the worn out old MUGA surface. New LED lighting augments this very useful part of the recreation ground.

Solar panels will be fitted to the pavilion. Along with two ten kilowatt batteries, the pavilion will be well equipped to meet its energy needs, as excess electricity sent to the grid will offset some of the cost of gas, for about nine months of the year.

The attenuation pond is still a matter of contention. Official agencies have been slow to amalgamate plans and so the threat of flooding from the West of the village is still very real.

Northstowe Phase 3a Key Stage 1 plans are now published and consultations start in May.

Finally, a thank you to all who make the parish what it is today. Thanks to the District and County Councillors who listen to and act upon our requests for help and advice. We may not need to give coal to the poor as in yesteryear, but the spirit of help and care is very much alive.

David Reeves

Chair – Oakington & Westwick Parish Council

Annual Report 2025



Cllr Firouz Thompson
County councillor for the
Longstanton division

**Longstanton, Northstowe,
Oakington & Westwick, Over**

1. Introduction

The composition of the County Council has changed during this Council's tenure.

The table below shows the current composition of the Council compared to the latest election results in May 2021. The Conservatives are not the largest group on the Council—for the first time ever.

	2021	2025
Conservatives	28	21
Liberal Democrats	20	23
Labour	9	10
Independents	4	3
Unaligned	0	4

Local elections for all 61 County Councillors across our 59 electoral divisions will be taking place on Thursday 1 May 2025.

I would encourage everyone who is registered to vote to take part in the forthcoming County Council Elections as well as the election of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Mayor.

2. The Council

The Joint Administration of Liberal Democrat, Labour and Independent councillors continues to run the Council. Our vision for Cambridgeshire remains unchanged and we are committed to creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire. Lucy Nethsingha remains as the Leader of the Council.

I am currently Vice-Chair of Children & Young People Committee and sit as sub on the Environment & Green Investment Committee and

Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee (COSMIC).

I also sit as:

- Board member of Cambridgeshire Music
- Member of Northstowe Delivery Group
- Member of Needingworth Quarry Liaison committee

3. Strategy, Resources & Performance

The Council set a balanced budget in February 2025, though this is becoming increasingly difficult for councils of all political colours across the country. An increasing number of local authorities are issuing 'Section 114' notices—the nearest council equivalent to bankruptcy. A 2023 poll of English councillors for the New Statesman found that a quarter of them believed that their council would soon go bankrupt, with 6 per cent saying this was 'very likely'.

Councillors acknowledged the challenges the council is facing with the demand for services, increasing complexity of need, inflation and market failures. Despite this, the business plan and budget process has been about listening to residents which is why more than £56m is being invested into highways maintenance. The county council had to close a gap of £35.1m – with 73% of the Council's net spend now being funded from Council Tax.

The council has prioritised several key areas, based on resident feedback through its Quality-of-Life survey, and are aligned to its vision to make Cambridgeshire greener, fairer and more caring: Investment of more than £56m in highways maintenance,

sustaining critical adults and children's social care and continuing to support vulnerable communities.

The Council increased its portion of council tax by 4.99% in total— 2% for adult social services. This increase will raise £20m of local income to help maintain and protect critical services for the most vulnerable communities. For most of our residents in Band A-D properties that will mean between an extra £1.04 pence to £1.55 a week.

For the second year, the county council commissioned the Quality of Life Survey involving more than 5,500 residents. We asked our residents to tell us what it is like for them living in Cambridgeshire and what concerns them most and we were delighted that so many people have been willing to participate.

We heard our residents continue to feel happy, safe and belong which is heartening. However, they have given a clear message about the challenges they are facing around the cost of living crisis. It is particularly concerning that residents are telling us that they are having to cut back on heating and nutritious food. Whilst work to tackle poverty is still ongoing, we clearly need to keep looking at what we can do to support our residents further if we want to deliver on our vision to be a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire. The survey also tells us that fewer people are struggling with mental and physical health this year which is a positive change for our residents.

4. Adults & Health

The Adults and Health Committee has a significant role in ensuring 'health inequalities are reduced' and 'people enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support that is

most suited to their needs', as part of our Strategic Framework

We have confirmed our commitment to ensuring ongoing support for people with learning disabilities and their families, following changes to how the council works with the NHS in Cambridgeshire. The Learning Disability Partnership (LDP), which has provided integrated health and social care support for adults with learning disabilities in Cambridgeshire, will be formally dissolved from 1 April 2025.

The Council and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care Board (ICB) are continuing discussions on how to work together to maintain services across the county. However, discussions are ongoing about payments owed for the services provided by the council, including historical debts. There still remains an opportunity to reach an agreement before entering formal legal mediation, and the council hopes for a constructive resolution that benefits all involved, particularly those who rely on these important services.

County councillors have raised concerns about this service separation and the associated financial issues, which has been formally escalated as a corporate risk by the council. Reports presented to the Adults and Health Committee, have highlighted the potential impact of these unresolved issues, and the council continues to press for a resolution.

5. Children & Young People

In Cambridgeshire, between 2020 and 2024, there was a 70% increase in children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), cost increases in home to school transport and in autism services over the same period. The council is facing significant pressures to meet the demand and costs of

supporting children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities. Currently we do not receive adequate funding from Government to meet the need. We are doing all we can locally to manage the increased pressures on funding as result of this rising demand. We have recently submitted a revised Safety Valve proposal to the Department for Education to help the council to manage these dual pressures of rising demand and costs.

The Council endorsed a motion for an urgent national review of the Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system at the March Full Council meeting. The motion called on the council's Chief Executive to write to Secretary of State for Education and the Minister for Schools to take assertive action to address the SEND crisis recognising that for the lowest funded Local Authority areas, like Cambridgeshire, children and young people are the most impacted because the funding received is not sufficient to meet the existing needs. A recent report from the Local Government Association and the County Councils Network, stated that reform was necessary, essential, and unavoidable, which was an honest and thorough assessment of the SEND crisis.

6. COSMIC

COSMIC (Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee) has continued to oversee the Household Support Fund, which supports people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for essential items. An increasing number of families are struggling financially at the moment.

COSMIC unanimously approved the renewal of a scheme which helps survivors of domestic abuse to feel safer and more secure in their homes.

This is key to the delivery of Cambridgeshire's Safe Accommodation Strategy, and Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy, and is provided in conjunction with working with a domestic abuse specialist. The survivor will be given a bespoke safety and support plan focused on their individual needs.

I am delighted to share the Council has received Council of Sanctuary status, reaffirming the Council's commitments to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for people seeking sanctuary in Cambridgeshire. We are amongst one of the first county councils in the UK to receive this national award.

Poverty affects us all – either through personal experience or through the impact on those around us, family, friends and communities. No single organisation can tackle poverty alone and a new commission involving organisations from across Cambridgeshire has been launched to tackle poverty in the county. The Cambridgeshire Poverty Strategy Commission brings together a group of independent commissioners who have extensive professional experience supporting residents. This independent body is concluding its work and COSMIC committee will ensure the council responds to its recommendations with our partners.

We continue to recognise the importance of our libraries which are at the heart of our communities. Libraries are where many of the council's resident facing interactions take place and they have an essential role in our communities as places of sanctuary, knowledge and community. We have planned further improvements for our Libraries through

£1.3m committed for the Libraries Plus programme, creating more flexible spaces and expanding the range of services available to our residents.

7. Environment

The Environment and Green Investment Committee discussed Anglian Water's proposals for the two new reservoirs and the Council will be involved as a statutory consultee on these proposals. We want to ensure ambitions for much needed growth are balanced with the significant pressures it creates on local services and infrastructure, and we will continue to work with our mayor and central government to deliver for local residents, communities and businesses.

Through the committee's stewardship, the council has reduced its direct carbon emissions by 42% and developed several major energy projects that will not only provide income but also provide renewable energy sources for the council and some of our communities.

The Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) has won a national award for its success in promoting environmental best practice and quality retrofit programmes.

The CERP partnership has been awarded bronze for its contribution to 'Green Public Service', these awards recognise, reward and promote environmental best practice across the public sector in the UK.

Also known as Action on Energy Cambridgeshire, CERP is a partnership between Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council,

Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

8. Highways & Transport

The condition of our roads and pavements is still a huge challenge, in Cambridgeshire as it is nationwide—a mixture of inadequate Government funding, decades of neglect, extreme weather, and in some cases poor standards of repair.

The Highways and Transport Committee agreed a £59m highways maintenance and improvement programme for 2025/26.

The county's roads need more than £400m worth of maintenance to address all the issues, and that does not include soil impacted roads, which is roughly an additional £530m.

However, the council's business plan, has enabled an additional £20m in 2025/26 to address our highway issues; a further £20m is allocated for 2026/27.

This funding, along with an additional £8m from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, will prioritise increased funding for Local Highway Improvements (LHIs), trees, weeds and vegetation, drainage maintenance, road safety, active travel, soil affected roads, highways maintenance including potholes, lining and signs, street lighting and bus shelter enhancements.

The programme, which has been produced using a new prioritisation process already agreed by the committee, means each scheme is scored against a set criterion. Such as the type of road, does it have active travel links, is it a public transport route, the condition, is it near a school or a care home and how many people

use it. It means the schemes are designed to apply the right treatment suitable to that location.

Improvements include more than £30m worth of carriageway maintenance, an additional £2m on soil affected roads, more than £7m on footpath and cycleway maintenance, £1m on active travel and £4m on drainage.

Following approval at committee, the programme will now go through design and development work before delivery begins in April, running through to March 2026.

9. Staffing and Appeals

Cambridgeshire has become the first County Council to be awarded 'Gold' membership of The 5% Club's 2024-25 Employer Audit Scheme. This award recognises the Council's significant contribution to the continued development of all its employees through "earn and learn" schemes such as Apprenticeships and Graduate Development Programmes. The 5% Club works with UK employers to drive positive action towards accessible workplace learning, by looking at numbers of apprentices, sponsored students and graduates employed. The goal is to increase employment and career prospects for young people and equip them with the skills they need to become an integral part of the workforce, and of society.

I am proud that the council has been shortlisted as a finalist in four categories of the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards. The LGC Awards celebrate the very best in local government, highlighting councils across the country that demonstrate outstanding leadership, creativity, and impact in serving their communities. Being shortlisted finalists for these four awards is a huge honour and is

testament to the positive changes our members and staff are driving forward.

10. Combined Authority

The council has reaffirmed its commitment to improving public transport accessibility and affordability by endorsing the Tiger bus fare scheme and the Mayor's recent decision to franchise bus routes, providing a more reliable and integrated service for residents. We have a modern and growing county and the transport network model that we have is not fit for purpose. We want to expand the Cambridgeshire bus network, with more routes, more destinations; we also want the local authority to be accountable for bus services.

The Combined Authority approved its spending plans from 2025/26, funding improvements to transport, skills and business growth. Separately, the Mayor's budget was also approved and confirmed that the Mayoral precept portion of council tax bills will be frozen for 2025/26. Included in the approved budget is the extension of the £2 bus fare cap to 30 June 2025, moving to a £2.50 fare cap from July to December 2025. This aims to maintain affordable and accessible travel, reduce road congestion, and ease cost-of-living pressures.

The Combined Authority secured £2.4m to support local people in getting good jobs. This funding will support skills bootcamps which are designed to equip local people with the skills they need to advance their careers. This is a fantastic collaboration between employers, learning providers, and the Combined Authority, working together to up-skill residents, fill vacancies, support the unemployed, and develop workforce talent across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Skills bootcamps are

an excellent initiative, and I urge people to take advantage of them.

11. Local Government Reorganisation

The Government published the English Devolution White Paper in December, which set out their programme to achieve greater devolution of powers and their intent to undertake Local Government Reorganisation.

On 5 February 2025, the Government issued an invitation to every council leader in two-tier areas of local government and neighbouring unitary authorities. The invitation asked for an interim update to be submitted on or before 21 March 2025.

The Council Leaders across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been exploring the impacts and various options for our county. We issued a response to the Minister outlining our position [The letter is available for you to read.](#)

There is a lot of work ahead of us to explore financially viable scenarios and I am pleased to share we have collectively approached reorganisation with a spirit of wanting the best for all our residents and for the local area as a whole.

12. Division news

Northstowe Learning Community: It was incredible to attend and speak at the opening at the Northstowe Sixth Form on Tuesday, 25 March. This milestone completes our vision for a comprehensive education hub in Northstowe.

With the opening of Northstowe Sixth Form College, the expanded Northstowe Secondary College, the brand-new Northstowe Primary School

and Nursery, and the dedicated Special Educational Needs (SEN) Martin Bacon Academy, we are creating a truly seamless education journey from early years to post-16—all on one exceptional site.

This significant investment ensures that students of all abilities can grow, learn, and thrive in an environment designed to support them every step of the way.

Moreover, this learning community will bring immense benefits to the surrounding communities. Pupils can now access all levels of education within their area, fostering a strong sense of community and continuity. This accessibility will enhance educational outcomes and provide families with the convenience and assurance of a cohesive educational pathway for their children.

I have continued to work diligently to represent my residents and enhance our community, making it an even better place for everyone.

My heartfelt thanks go to the town and parish clerks and councillors, whose dedication keeps our communities united, and to the outstanding local action, community, and charity groups with whom I have had the pleasure of working.

Firouz Thompson



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

Cllr Natalie Warren-Green Longstanton Ward

Annual Report
2024-2025



Thank You to Longstanton Ward



It's been a pleasure to act as a South Cambridgeshire District Councillor for Longstanton Ward including Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick, and Northstowe for another year.

This is an exciting ward to work in and I want to thank residents, parish and town councillors, and members of the many community groups across the ward for being in constant contact with me to solve casework, deal with tricky situations to manage, and to keep energy and momentum up across a ward that is experiencing a lot of development, and which has regularly reached national levels of interest for the government and media alike.



South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC)

This presentation acts as my report for the year, including looking at what SCDC has achieved across the entire district, the focus for this ward and the future Corporate Plan for SCDC for 2025-2030.

A new website launched in March 2025 at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/> includes information and contacts for the services of SCDC which include:

- Benefits
- Bins (Waste collection) & Recycling (a shared service with Cambridge City Council)
- Climate & Environment
- Community & People
- Cost of Living Support
- Council tax collection & support
- Business support and development
- Health & Wellbeing
- Environmental Health
- Housing
- Licensing
- Planning Services (a shared service with Cambridge City Council)





South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

Looking Back 2024-2025



Looking back at 2024-2025

It's good to have this opportunity to look back at 2024-25, to celebrate and recognise the key moments of success and development we've seen over the past year.

Given that South Cambs is responsible for many different services, the next few slides give snapshot of key moments and successes for SCDC.

Longstanton Ward Parish and Town Councils, Community Groups, Businesses and residents alike, have drawn down on many of the opportunities arising from these.

Thank you all for your very active engagement.



April and May 2024

- Beginning of our 50th Anniversary Year
- Launched Community Growing Grant Scheme
- Launched Northstowe Community Activation Fund
- Rail and Ale Trail launched
- Update on Six Free Trees project showed 750 saplings delivered through the scheme
- Community Chest funding supports projects in Fowlmere, Swavesey, and more!



June and July 2024

- General Election (successfully run by our incredible electoral services team)
- Council debates Four-Day Week trial showing positive results and the Four-Day Week continues
- Launched the Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy
- Bourn Airfield planning permission issued following Water Scarcity Group work
- Launched Youth Enterprise Market Challenge, to support young (16-25) entrepreneurs
- Worked with 'Let's Cook Project' to deliver free family cooking events
- Funded electrification of the mobile food hub



August & September 2024

- Neighbourhood plan consultation launched for Pampisford, and Thriplow and Heathfield
- GCSPS awarded funding for “Planning Supersquad” by Government
- 6th Year of Zero Carbon Communities Grants - £125k
- £100k small business grant scheme launched
- Histon and Impington (and Orchard Park) by-election
- £900k in Rural England (REPF) Grants - 19 projects
- “Help Shape our Priorities” Consultation Launched
- SCDC receives White Ribbon Accreditation



October 2024

- Climate Change and Environment Advisory Committee hold away day at Comberton Village College
- LGA Peer Challenge praises SCDC for 'strong ambition', 'good leadership' and 'innovative approaches'
- £345,000 pledged by SCDC to support Mobile Warden Schemes in South Cambridgeshire
- £200,000 "Improving the High Street" grant scheme launched
- South Cambs' Annual Climate Action Conference held in Cambourne
- South Cambs Connect launched
- Council tax on second/ empty properties doubled to bring empty homes back into use.



November and December 2024

- SCDC signs Anti-Racism Charter with UNISON
- Community Chest grant given to support community mobility equipment scheme in Shelford
- Best Value Notice lifted
- Council uses LIFT to contact hundreds of SCDC residents who should be claiming Pension Credit
- SCDC passes motion supporting Climate and Nature bill
- SCDC receives Menopause Friendly Accreditation
- South Cambs Christmas Market
- £360,000 Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme Launched
- Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan consultation
- 4,500 new homes approved at Waterbeach new town



January and February 2025

- Four Day Week consultation launched
- Neighbourhood Plan consultation for Harston launched
- Council opens bidding period for faith land in Northstowe
- Corporate Plan adopted setting vision for the next five years
- Government's new planning target comes into affect for Greater Cambridge (from 1,526 to 2,309 homes per year)
- SCDC extends cost of living support to March 2026 with a £151,000 package
- New contract in place to boost recycling of blue bin waste from March 2025



March 2025

- Council announces 60 empty homes on track to be brought back into use
- Groundbreaking ceremony for Northstowe Unity Centre
- £8 million awarded to SCDC to improve energy efficiency of Council homes
- South Cambs new website launched
- Plans for Weekly Food Waste Collections announced
- Disabled Facilities Grants Top-Up increased from £15,000 to £30,000
- Allotment Improvement Grants launched
- Council debated Local Government Reorganisation
- Added 111 new houses to out affordable housing stock, the most ever in a single year.



What have we been up to in Longstanton Ward?

The following slides give examples of the activity across the Ward related to these key themes:

- Local Planning
- Environment
- Northstowe Facilities

Please note: I have undertaken regular casework working closely with the Parish Councils and Town Council to support residents. This is confidential work, often sensitive to residents. Key topics for this casework include: Cost of Living challenges, anti-social-behaviour, planning, housing, environmental health, licensing, etc.

Please continue to contact me with concerns you need support with.



What have we been up to in Longstanton Ward?

Local Planning Across Longstanton Ward

- Planning continues to aim for economic Growth in Greater Cambridge: New jobs, new homes
- The new government shone a spotlight on Northstowe in Summer 2024, supporting development of the iconic New Town. This has raised concerns about the local plan and water levels as development continues.
- SCDC planning team continues to keep focal to their planning the potential serious consequences for water supply in the area
- Lead Cabinet Member for Planning Cllr Tumi Hawkins was invited to Oakington & Westwick Parish Council Meeting in March to answer concerns of the Parish and to give reassurance that the planning team are continuing to take water concerns seriously
- I have continued to work with SCDC planning leads and Longstanton Environmental & Groundwater Group (LEGG) to ensure continued pressure on SCDC to investigate concerns about groundwater levels in Longstanton – H R Wallingford is due to undertake more investigation in April/May 2025



What have we been up to in Longstanton Ward?

Protecting the Environment

- Longstanton and Oakington & Westwick Parish Councils continued to take up the opportunity to plant more trees under the six free trees initiative
- Voi Bikes and Scooters initiative has been supported by Northstowe and Oakington & Westwick with the trial getting underway and engaged with in March 2025
- As mentioned above re: planning, LEGG, whose membership includes Parish Council members, continues to work with SCDC to resolve groundwater issues
- Engagement across the Ward regarding the plan to develop a solar farm in Longstanton has been strong and continues into the coming year
- The community allotment in Northstowe is thriving and some of the produce has been distributed by the food bank (e.g. Pumpkins in October)



What have we been up to in Longstanton Ward?

Northstowe: Facilities

- I continue working as part of the Delivery Group and with the Town Council and Communities Team and Community Network to support the development of facilities
- Examples of progress made in 2024-25 includes:
 - ☐ Full use of the Interim Community building by many community groups and some healthcare services
 - ☐ Groundbreaking of the Permanent Community Centre
 - ☐ Launch of the Sports Pavilion
 - ☐ Continuation of the Market
 - ☐ Opening of Social Housing (Council apartments) in Stirling Fields



Taking a look at SCDC Future Plans

- Our Corporate plan is summarised below for reference and please do contact me if you have any questions about these:
- Cllr.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk





South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

Corporate Plan 2025-2030



Our vision for South Cambridgeshire

Our vision is for a fairer, kinder, and greener South Cambridgeshire, where all residents will be equal partners in their communities.

We aspire to create a better district to the benefit of everyone in our communities. We recognise the many challenges that face the district and will continue to work to overcome these to help realise its full potential.



Challenges facing South Cambridgeshire

Over the next five years our communities and residents will face a range of challenges, which we will seek to address through this Corporate Plan.



Challenges facing South Cambridgeshire

Our area faces significant issues associated with **rural isolation**.

As a **nationally significant area for growth**, we need to plan for the delivery of additional floorspace for employment.

We are experiencing a national **housing crisis**, which is being felt acutely in South Cambridgeshire.

We are currently facing an **ecological crisis**, and we must protect and enhance nature and biodiversity across the district.



As a Council we have committed to support the district in halving emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050 as part of our commitment to tackling **climate change**.

We must be prepared to handle the uncertainties around proposed **local government reorganisation** to ensure residents continue to receive high quality services.

As our local economy grows our **businesses need a skilled workforce**, ready to make the most of future opportunities.



Our residents experience above average **income inequality** compared with the rest of England.

Local Authorities across the country must be resilient to **financial challenges** such as the Fair Funding Review and reductions in central government funding.

Greater Cambridge faces significant challenges with **water scarcity**, which threatens both our precious environment and the ability to deliver much-needed housing.



Our priorities

- Healthy and supported communities
- Sustainable homes and vibrant places
- Being green to our core
- Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire
- Financially secure and fit for the future



Healthy and supported communities



Supporting and engaging with our communities is key to tackling the challenges we face as a district. Our diversity is our strength and helping everyone live freely and independently is essential to promoting healthy and supported communities.



Healthy and supported communities



Our ambition

We want to create a district where people feel safe, supported, and confident in their communities. Together, we'll focus on what delivers for residents, enabling healthier, more independent lives for everyone.



Healthy and supported communities



What we will do

- We will help our residents, including older, disabled and vulnerable people, to live safely in their own homes.
- We will collaborate with partners and work to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour, and environmental health issues, promoting a safe and healthy community.
- We will support the improved health and wellbeing of residents and work with community groups, the voluntary sector and individuals to help to tackle issues within their communities.
- We will support the most vulnerable people in our communities to ensure they have access to the resources and opportunities needed to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.



Sustainable homes and vibrant places



A home is more than a roof over your head, it is the foundation on which people build their lives. An affordable home is essential for people to live happy, fulfilling lives. In light of the housing crisis, we are committed to strengthening our communities by delivering sustainable, affordable homes and vibrant places to live.



Sustainable homes and vibrant places



Our ambition

Building environmentally sustainable places is fundamental to our work - helping people live near their work, shops, schools, leisure, and healthcare, with affordable and reliable public transport. High-quality, affordable housing in the right places is essential. We'll continue increasing our council housing stock and bringing empty homes back into use to ensure everyone has a place to call home.



Sustainable homes and vibrant places



What we will do

- We will continue to deliver new, high quality council homes and work with partners to improve the availability and affordability of housing stock across the district.
- We will work closely with partners and local communities to ensure that new homes are delivered alongside supporting infrastructure and amenities. modern standards.
- We will invest in our housing stock and improve the energy and cost efficiency of housing across the district - ensuring homes meet modern standards.
- We will work with partners to support healthy and connected communities, with access to green space.



Being green to our core



Being green is at the heart of everything we do. We're tackling the climate and ecological crises head-on, ensuring our district is ready for the challenges of climate change.



Being green to our core



Our ambition

We will consistently promote a cleaner, greener, zero carbon future for our communities. We recognise the climate and ecological emergencies and are playing our part by achieving 75% operational emissions reduction by 2030 and supporting the district to halve emission by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. We must safeguard and enhance the natural world for future generations and help our communities do the same. We shall strive to be among the most sustainable places to live and work in the country.



Being green to our core



What we will do

- We will work with partners to ensure that proposed development plans safeguard and where possible enhance the local environment and nature.
- By 2030 we will reduce emissions from the Council's estate and operations by 75% from 2018-19 levels.
- We will support households and businesses to reduce consumption and waste, while promoting reuse and recycling.
- We will support others (including parish councils, local communities and businesses) to respond to the climate and ecological emergencies, with the ambition of halving emissions by 2030, putting us on the path to net zero by 2050.



Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire



Already recognised as a nationally significant area for development, helping local businesses thrive is key to the development of our district - bringing new jobs and opportunities into people's communities.



Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire



Our ambition

We will support local businesses as they start up and grow and as we transition towards a sustainable economy. Working with partners we are helping our residents develop the skills they need to take full advantage of local opportunities. Our area is already truly world leading and we will work to strengthen this position, whilst being mindful of the inequalities that exist and which access to work will go some way to address.



Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire



What we will do

- We will provide support to help businesses to start up and grow within South Cambridgeshire.
- We will work with partners to promote apprenticeships and support the economically inactive back into work.
- We will work with partners to promote the vibrancy and health of South Cambridgeshire high streets, markets and commercial areas.
- We will work with partner organisations and through the planning service to make South Cambridgeshire an even more attractive place to do business.



Financially secure and fit for the future



We have a duty to provide high quality cost-efficient services. Being open, transparent, and inclusive and letting evidence guide our decisions is critical to putting residents first.



Financially secure and fit for the future



Our ambition

We will make it easier for residents to engage with our services and democratic processes. We will make smart financial decisions to safeguard our services for the future and invest in our staff to ensure they remain equipped to deliver for our district's needs. Tackling fraud and continuing to deliver good value for money are both essential to the continued sound financial management of the council.



Financially secure and fit for the future

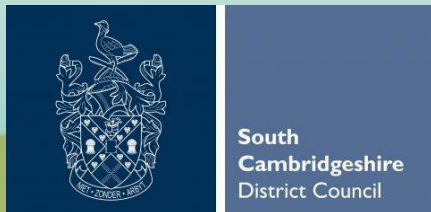


What we will do

- We will ensure our services are delivered smoothly, focussing on ease of access for our customers, making it easier to engage with decision-making, and making best use of technology to provide 24/7 services.
- We will be an employer of choice, attracting and retaining the best talent and investing in the development of our staff and councillors.
- We will continue to explore ways of increasing income to help support services.
- We will make best use of Council resources, including through the identification of fraud and error.



**Please send questions to:
cllr.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk**



Pavilion Report 2025 Parish Annual Council Meeting

The Pavilion continues to have a variety of bookings using the hall, to cover all ages and sporting interests, from Cubs and Scouts Yoga, Pilates, to mature fitness classes. Plus, a variety of social bookings. We continue to promote our activities and events in the bi-monthly Oakington and Weswick Journal.

It was sad to accept the resignation of Mark Darling as our Vice-Chair and the committee, after 16 years in post. He was an invaluable member of the team, especially organising our Village Lottery, working alongside Tony Ledley, on lots of behind-the-scenes work.

Special thanks and appreciation must go to Laura Lawrence for all the extra work she undertakes as our Treasurer, we continue to be challenging times with our expenditure, especially fuel costs and needing to break into our reserves.

I don't know how we as a committee we manage without Tony Ledley in his roles as Administrator and Caretaker. continuing his daily tasks, but he carries on without protest, well to me! He does an amazing amount of behind the scenes, additional to his employed working hours and for this I want to say a huge thank you.

Again, as I comment every year that the 3G surface, the Lottery and private hiring of the building remain the key to making the Sports Pavilion sustainable. The Pavilion is of course part of the village, and we hope to continue to promote the pavilion for hired events over the next few months, mindful as always of the residents close by. I am so pleased that we now have our new 3G surface which I hope is going to make a big difference to our future. We are challenged this year with a substantial shortfall with the lack of a co-ordinator for the Pavilion Lottery and I urge you to consider whether you could consider this role?

We as a Committee need to thank our Parish Councillor representatives on the Committee David Reeves and Stephen Moore. Thank you to all the members of the Parish Council for their ongoing support to the Pavilion Committee.

I just want I just want to highlight that we are all volunteers in our roles, on the Pavilion Committee, something I think people forget. We volunteer because we care about the Community we live in!

The Pavilion Committee with myself as Chair, has successfully managed this Sports Pavilion, both professionally and financially, that was the remit the Parish Council gave us when we opened the Pavilion, over 16 years ago. This is something we need to be proud of! We have a

wonderful building, and 3G pitch, for the use of this village and surrounding villages too.

All we can hope for is that we continue the successes of the Pavilion in the next few months as we face the financial challenges and change in roles, in this my final year as Chair.

Elaine Bailey
Chair of the Pavilion Committee

Oakington Environment Action Group

Aims to make the village safer and more attractive for local
people and wildlife



Thoughts on James Youd and James Heywood
Annual Parish Council Meeting 31st March
2025

Attractive floral displays in tubs



Flood Mitigation Group aiming to reduce the risk of repetition of August 2016 floods





The village pond, not touched
for 30 years



Andrew Dennis in
waders

The village pond as
it is today



Improvement to the recreation ground



RAF Oakington
seating area



Optimum Patient Care Volunteers help weed the seating areas



Nature recovery with SOW



2025
pollinator
survey





*Liaising with
HIGS (Histon
and Impington
Green Spaces)*



Christmas tree sales

Pavement clearing



Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

Report for Annual Parish Meeting, 31st March 2025

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick is an informal group which organises talks, events and activities. There are 76 on our mailing list, from the parish and nearby villages including links with other similar groups. Our monthly meetings are usually attended by 15 – 25 people of all ages, from primary school to retired. SOW brings together people who are concerned about biodiversity loss and the environmental crisis – but it's everyone's problem, we should all be taking action, and SOW's activities are aimed at the whole community.

Our second annual repair cafe in February was very successful, with nearly a hundred items brought in. We are working with the EAG on the Nature Recovery Project and are looking for volunteers to help with ApollOW, counting pollinators. We also hope to promote the village tool share. Recently we have been focussing on recycling, and have been trying to find a location for a community box to collect recyclable items that can't be put in the blue bin. Other activities in the last twelve months have included talks on composting, rain gardens and communicating about climate change, a nature walk around Mansell Farm, a community vegetarian meal and, joint with OWN, a plant swap, orchard wassail and apple pressing. Two sessions have been led by the fantastic kids' Eco Club. Notes from most of the talks are on our website which now forms a resource of tips and information. Everyone is welcome to SOW activities; please email us if you'd like to be kept updated.

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

Report for Annual Parish Meeting, 31st March 2025

There's lots of good neighbourliness in Oakington & Westwick and the goal of OWN is to extend this and to provide opportunities for people to meet and come together. Currently OWN volunteers visit housebound residents and help with shopping, but we can offer different sorts of practical help and company, so do get in touch with any requests, or if you would like to join the pool of volunteers which is quite small at the moment.

One of OWN's most important activities is the Hardship Fund. Anyone in financial need can contact the Hardship Team confidentially. Most of the requests are from families with children. We have responded to more requests for help this year, probably reflecting the cost of living crisis.

We also run a monthly minibus service to Bar Hill, open to anyone but particularly appreciated by older people who can't drive there and for whom it's also a nice social event.

It's really important for our well-being to make connections with those around us, and it has been lovely to bring people together at a range of events in the last year. These have included community carol-singing, the plant swap, the Big Lunch, community apple pressing, the orchard wassail, and a community meal. Some were jointly organised with SOW and Blue Barrel Cider. The Big Lunch this year is on Sunday 8th June, put the date in your diaries!

Thank you to all the OWN volunteers for their amazing contribution to this community. Especially thank you to Matt Saunders and Cate Lambert who have joined the steering group, to replace some longstanding members. We are looking for another person to join the team.