



SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (SCDC)

ANNUAL REPORT TO LONGSTANTON WARD:

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH

LONGSTANTON PARISH

NORTHSTOWE TOWN

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

It's a pleasure to share my report to for the Annual Meetings in Oakington & Westwick, Longstanton, and Northstowe covering activity across South Cambridgeshire.

Liberal Democrat administration has been in place in South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) since May 2018. This is the final year of the current District Council Administration, with Elections due on 7th May 2026 giving you a democratic right to vote for the people you want to represent you as we move to a Unitary Authority within the next two years (see Local Government Reorganisation below).

The last 12 months have been constructive and productive across the council. There has been a great deal of progress made, and I am proud to have played a part as your District Councillor (Longstanton Ward), Lead Cabinet member for Environment, and as a member of the Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Growth Committee, and Northstowe Delivery Group.

Before giving an update for the year, I thought it would be useful to remind everyone of the main (statutory) services that SCDC provides:

SCDC Services

- Benefits
- Business support and development
- Council tax collection and support
- Environment and Climate
- Environmental Health
- Housing
- Licensing (pubs, taxis)
- Planning Services (a shared service with Cambridge City Council)
- Waste collection and recycling (a shared service with Cambridge City Council)

You can find more details on our new website: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/>

The case work I have supported residents with as your District Councillor, is confidential. However, some examples of areas I have supported on this year across your communities include advice and action regarding benefits to counter the cost-of-living crisis, council tax support, local planning issues, environmental impacts to your communities and mitigation as Northstowe grows, preserving heritage through grants, licensing support, waste guidance, and hands-on involvement in a broad spectrum of community activities.

I am pleased that so many of you have approached me for my support. Thank you for working with me and do please continue to contact me by email or phone when you need help (*contact details on page 6*).

SCDC: Highlights over the past 12 months

The first two items are of profound significance for local government and local democracy.

Local Government Reorganisation

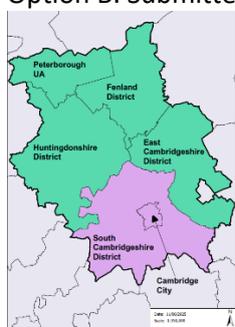
In the last year, the council has spent a great deal of time dealing with government requirements for a Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in which the Government is seeking to replace existing district, city and county councils with a single layer of “unitary councils”. In November 2025, the principal authorities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough submitted their proposals for what those new councils should look like. The Government is currently consulting on those proposals and is expected to make its final decision in the summer. You can read all four business cases and respond to the consultation here (Deadline 26th March): <https://tinyurl.com/HMG-LGR-proposals>

The four proposals on the table are as follows:

Option A: Submitted by Cambridgeshire County Council

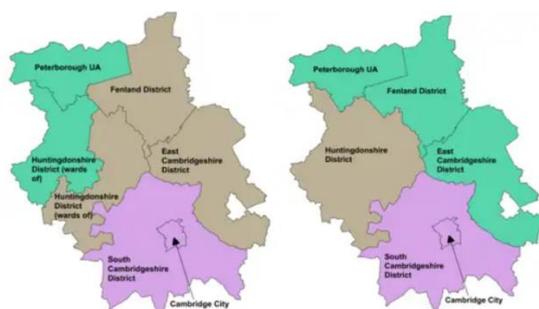


Option B: Submitted by South Cambs DC, East Cambs DC, Cambridge City Council



Option D: Submitted by Peterborough City Council and Fenland District Council

Option E: Submitted by Huntingdonshire DC



A fifth option - C - would have included South Cambs, Cambridge and Huntingdonshire in the same authority, but this was not taken forward by any council. We expect the Government to decide which option they

want in the summer, so that elections to the “shadow councils” can take place in May 2027, and for the new councils to take over in April 2028. Therefore, the upcoming district council elections (7th May) will be the last ones for SCDC.

Development Corporation (“DevCo”)

In the past year, the Government has introduced proposals to install an Urban Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge, and it is currently running a public consultation on their plans. This would take important planning powers away from local authorities (both determining applications above a certain size and making the local plan) and vest them with a DevCo, made up of a majority of members appointed by the Secretary of State, rather than locally elected politicians. This is as part of the government’s ambitions to “turbocharge” growth in and around Cambridge. You can read the full proposals here, and I would urge you to respond to the consultation (Deadline 1st April): <https://tinyurl.com/Devco-proposals-consultation>

Planning

Ironically, just as the government is proposing to remove many planning powers from the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS), it has, in the last year, won the prestigious award for Planning Authority of the Year 2025. This was a massive achievement and something the councils is immensely proud of.

The GCSPC’s draft Local Plan is in an advanced stage of development and a recent consultation garnered over 4,500 responses which are now being analysed. You can learn more about the Local Plan here: <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/>

You can also view SCDC’s Authority Monitoring Report, which sets out how the council is progressing towards targets in the *existing* Local Plan and government housing targets. Link: <https://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s142090/App%201.pdf>

New Council Homes

The year has seen a record-breaking year for South Cambridgeshire when it comes to the building of new council houses. When the current administration came to power in 2018, the council was building no more than 35 new council houses each year and because of ‘right to buy’ sales its portfolio was shrinking; the period 2013 to 2018 saw a net reduction of 99 council houses. Since 2018 the current administration has nearly quadrupled the rate of council house building. This year, at the time of writing, at least 120 new council homes had been completed across the district and should (by the end of the financial year) have delivered 139 new council homes. This is something about which the administration is very proud of – developing affordable housing in our district, responding to resident requirements.

Mobile Wardens scheme

SCDC continues to support the Mobile Wardens Scheme, which offers support and assistance for older people to allow them to continue to live independently at home by providing daily contact (Monday to Friday) either by a personal visit or by a telephone call, to ensure a sense of security and wellbeing. SCDC has set out a funding programme which will enable mobile warden schemes to transition to being more financially independent, hopefully securing their long-term viability across the district.

Cost of living crisis mitigation and Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT)

Another proud initiative is the LIFT scheme, which was made permanent in the last year. The LIFT software interrogates the council’s databases to identify South Cambs residents who are missing out on benefits that they are entitled to claim. A two-year apprentice role has been added to the scheme to make the most of the LIFT programme. It’s already done fantastic work for residents – helping over 1,000 residents so far.

With many residents still facing financial pressures, the Council will continue providing its comprehensive cost-of-living support package. A budget of £449,000 is set aside to help residents through the next two years through schemes such as emergency food and energy support, workshops, budgeting and debt advice, white goods and furniture for vulnerable people and laptops with digital training.

Homes for Ukraine scheme

Sadly, it's now been four years since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, and many Ukrainians are still unable to safely return home. South Cambridgeshire continues to support Ukrainian guests. As of writing, there are 104 Ukrainian guests being hosted in South Cambridgeshire, being hosted by 75 households. Many have moved on to private rented accommodation in the UK. In total 1,009 people have arrived in South Cambridgeshire under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Community Chest Grants

The Council continues to provide Community Chest funding, and this reflects the Council's commitment to sustaining grassroots initiatives and supporting a stronger, more connected community. By investing in these organisations, the district ensures that local people continue to benefit from essential services, social opportunities, and support networks. Community Chest grant funding is available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life in South Cambridgeshire.

Budget and Council Tax Setting

At the Council's budget meeting, councillors agreed to a £5.24 increase for a Band D property. This works out to 10p a week.

We've included below a comparison of the different precepts charged across Cambridgeshire. This doesn't include police and fire precepts or the Mayor's precept. It also doesn't include town and parish precepts (which in an increasing number of cases are now larger than the District Council's). As you can see, South Cambridgeshire charges slightly more than Huntingdonshire DC, but significantly less than both Cambridge CC and Fenland DCs.

District	Unitary Precept	District Precept	County Precept	Total
East Cambs		£142.14	£1,785.42	£1,927.56
Huntingdonshire		£170.86	£1,785.42	£1,956.28
South Cambs		£180.64	£1,785.42	£1,966.06
Cambridge		£239.07	£1,785.42	£2,024.49
Fenland		£253.35	£1,785.42	£2,038.77
Peterborough	£1,836.72			£1,836.72

This is in the context of significant cuts to our funding from central government. Our core spending power is being cut by over £5 million over the next 3 years, thanks to the Government's "fair funding review 2.0" which is hurting councils in rural areas like ours. That drop is the equivalent to 15% of our core spending power.

This is largely because we're losing 40% of our retained business rates, and whilst the government is providing some transition funding, that will be removed over the next 3 years.

As a result of the government's funding changes, we are increasingly reliant on council tax. In this budget - council tax represents 35% of our core spending power. Come 2028/29 - council tax will represent 47% of our core spending power.

Being green to our core

We are making major progress on the Council's Being Green to Our Core priority, including the ongoing roll-out of [weekly food waste collections](#) to help reduce the amount of food waste being sent to landfill.

Construction of [a solar energy park](#) to help power the Council's growing fleet of electric bin lorries which will be complete by the end of the calendar year.

If you're not already signed up, please sign up to the Council's Zero Carbon Communities (ZCC) newsletter, which goes out quarterly and contains information about all the council's various environmental projects: [Zero Carbon Communities Newsletter - South Cambs District Council](#)

The Council has also just adopted a new unified Climate and Nature Strategy – which brings together all of our climate change and nature recovery work. It's a really exciting document and well worth a read: <https://scambsmodern.gov.co.uk/documents/s142386/Appendix%20B%20Full%20Council.pdf>

Town and Parish Council Liaison Officer

The council continues to employ a Town and Parish Council Liaison Officer – Jack Bullimore – who has acted as a point of contact for parish councils over the last year. Alongside your district councillors, please look out for contacts from him.

Elections

Obviously, the district elections are fast approaching, and I am pleased to be re-standing as I am keen to continue representing and supporting residents across the ward as we move to Unitary status. Parish elections will also be taking place.

Please see a summary of the timetable for the elections:

Publication of Notice of Election	Monday 30 March 2026
Receipt of Nominations	4:00 pm Thursday 9 April 2026
Last Date for Registration	Monday 20 April 2026
Receipt of Postal Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 21 April 2026
Last day for Voter Authority Certificates	5:00 pm Tuesday 28 April 2026
Receipt of Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 28 April 2026
Receipt of Emergency Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Thursday 7 May 2026
Day of Poll	7:00 am to 10:00 pm Thursday 7 May 2026

For all the information, please see the district council's website: [Elections 2026 - South Cambs District Council](#)

As ever, please encourage people to register to vote and go to the polls on 7th May!

Natalie

Cllr Natalie Warren-Green (also known as Tilly)

COUNCILS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND KEY GOVERNMENT FUNDED ORGANISATIONS

If you have a problem or concern do not worry too much about who can solve it just ask the question and we will endeavour to signpost to the right person. The organisational structure of Cambridgeshire is complex, but it is important to identify where responsibility lies.

<p>County Council</p> <p>Responsibilities: Education, Transport, Highways, Heritage, Social care, Libraries, Trading standards, - Waste management, Maintaining their estate.</p> <p>Some of these services are shared between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council but any concerns should be directed to the county council.</p>
<p>District Council</p> <p>Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning.</p>
<p>Parish/ Town Council</p> <p>Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Open spaces, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters.</p>
<p>Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)</p> <p>'The local delivery body for a City Deal with central Government worth up to £500 million over 15 years, to vital improvements in infrastructure (decarbonising transport), supporting and accelerating the creation of 44,000 new jobs, 33,500 new homes and 420 additional apprenticeships.'</p> <p>Partnership between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, University of Cambridge.</p>
<p>The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor</p> <p>'A combined authority (CA) is a legal body set up using national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.'</p> <p>What our mayor does – Business support, skills, housing, transport, environment, international, digital connectivity, resilience, research, and strategy. New homes.</p>
<p>Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge and Peterborough</p> <p>To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.</p>
<p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority</p> <p>The Fire Authority is the governing body responsible for delivering a fire and rescue service to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is made up of Cambridgeshire County Councillors and Peterborough City Councillors.</p>

CONTACT DETAILS

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the above, or any other matters.

Cllr Natalie Warren-Green for Longstanton Ward including Longstanton, Northstowe, and Oakington & Westwick

Email: cldr.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk

For those on social media we have a highly active Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/> - Longstanton, Oakington and Northstowe

Cllr Thomas Bygott

2025-26 Annual Report to Oakington and Westwick

March 2026

Introduction

Thank you to everyone in Oakington and Westwick for your continued support. It remains an honour to represent you at South Cambridgeshire District Council, and I am always happy to assist residents who need help navigating district level services or planning matters.

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) sits between the Parish and County tiers of local government. It covers 105 villages and the towns of Cambourne and Northstowe. Although SCDC collects Council Tax on behalf of other authorities, only a portion is retained for district services such as waste collection, housing, planning and environmental health. Nevertheless, the decisions made at this level profoundly affect daily life in our communities.

The breakdown for the average (band D) property in Oakington, following the budget meeting in February, of the Council Tax collected will be:

Authority	2025-26 band D	2026-27 band D	Annual change
Cambridgeshire County Council	£1,700.64	£1,785.42	+4.99%
South Cambs District Council	£175.40	£180.64	+2.99%
Police and Crime Commissioner	£299.43	£314.37	+4.99%
Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	£87.21	£91.16	+4.53%
Cambridgeshire + P Combined Authority	£36.00	£36.00	0
Oakington + Westwick Parish Council	£110.42	£108.29	-1.93%
TOTAL	£2,409.10	£2,515.88	+4.43%

This year has been defined by three major themes: the permanent adoption of the four-day working week, the publication of the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and the Government's proposal to abolish district councils entirely through Local Government Reorganisation. Each of these will shape how our area is governed for decades.

The abolition of county councils brings to an end a division of the country that has existed in England since Saxon times. Between parish councils, representing villages, and the national government in Westminster, there will be no tiers of government that have historical legitimacy or form part of community identity. The creation of a Development Corporation and the stripping of planning powers from local councils will cement central government's grip in making decisions about our village's future.

Finance and Budget

At the February 2026 budget meeting, the administration set Council Tax for the coming year and confirmed its financial direction. As in previous years, my group proposed an alternative budget. Our aim was not to oppose for opposition's sake, but to redirect spending toward frontline services and demonstrable value for residents.

The fundamental question facing any council is simple: what are residents paying for? The district's share of Council Tax is smaller than that of the County Council, but it remains significant. When residents see bins missed, planning decisions delayed, complaints unanswered or empty council homes left unused for long periods, confidence is eroded.

One of my principal concerns remains the level of expenditure devoted to internal management, performance monitoring and "transformation" programmes. Reform and digital improvement are sometimes necessary, but they must produce measurable improvement in outcomes. A council exists to deliver services, not to study itself.

Borrowing levels also remain a concern. The council has increased borrowing in an era of higher interest rates. While capital investment can be justified, prudence matters. With Local Government Reorganisation looming, there is a real possibility that the District Council itself may be abolished within two years. It is therefore reasonable to ask whether current financial commitments are proportionate and sustainable.

The Four-Day Week: from trial to permanence

The most controversial decision of the year was taken in July 2025, when the administration voted to make the 32-hour, four-day week permanent.

The trial began in January 2023. It was originally presented as an experiment in recruitment and retention, designed to attract staff in a competitive labour market. Over time, it evolved into a central feature of the council's identity. Yet the evidence presented before the final vote raised serious questions.

The public consultation data presented did not demonstrate statistically significant improvement in any service. Several services, including waste collection and Council Tax administration, recorded statistically significant decline. Other services showed downward trends that did not meet the statistical threshold but were nonetheless concerning.

Subsequent reporting showed that South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City jointly recorded 12,797 missed bin collections in the previous year — the highest in the county and fifth highest in the East of England. Missed bins are not an abstract metric; they are a visible and tangible failure of service.

Equally troubling was the collapse in public trust. Only 4% of respondents in a representative survey strongly agreed that they trusted the council to act in residents' best interests. Trust is the currency of local government. Once diminished, it is difficult to restore.

Hybrid working has compounded these concerns. The council offices are often sparsely occupied. While flexible working can bring benefits, local government is not a remote corporation. It is a public institution rooted in place. Accessibility, accountability and presence matter.

The Government has intervened previously over the four-day week via a Best Value Notice, and further correspondence has taken place this year expressing concern about value for money. As the council has now been written to by both the outgoing Conservative administration and the current Labour one, it is difficult for the council to argue that Government intervention is ideologically motivated, but rather comes from a reasonable concern that local residents are not receiving an adequate level of service in the areas for which the council is responsible.

Local Government Reorganisation: The possible end of the District Council

While the council has been focused on its internal working arrangements, the Government has initiated the most significant restructuring of English local government since 1974. The proposal would abolish district and county councils and replace them with large unitary authorities serving populations of roughly half a million people or more. For South Cambridgeshire, this means that the District Council in its current form may cease to exist.

In November 2025, the council voted to recommend a unitary authority combining Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. I voted for an alternative option that would also include Huntingdonshire, creating two evenly balanced unitary authorities across the county. My concern is that a Cambridge–South Cambridgeshire authority alone risks becoming overwhelmingly urban in outlook and priorities.

In December 2025, the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness wrote to councils involved in Local Government Reorganisation, including those in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The letter indicated that councils submitting reorganisation proposals could request that their May 2026 elections be postponed to 2027 in order to “free up capacity” to focus on structural reform. Councils were asked to provide their views by mid-January 2026, after which the Secretary of State would decide whether to lay an Order before Parliament to delay the elections.

My group and I were completely opposed to any postponement and fortunately the ruling group, much to their credit, chose not to make this request for South Cambridgeshire. Peterborough and several councils in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex did make this request, and were embarrassed and put on the back foot when the Government decided not to delay them after all. In my view, regular elections are an essential part of living in a democracy and should never be delayed without the most exceptional of circumstances (war, natural disasters etc). I fully support calls to remove or further restrict the power of the minister to delay elections, it currently derives mainly from local government legislation, including the Local Government Act 1972.

It is becoming clearer to me that the best outcome from Local Government Reorganisation might be for the Government to make another embarrassing u-turn and cancel the whole process altogether, as it did with the Regional Government proposals in 2004. Every change of this magnitude ought to be made only after a public referendum, which is the standard practice in most countries. A referendum was held for a North East Regional Assembly in November 2004, after which the then Government saw that was very little support for their plans.

Planning

Late in 2025, the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan was published. This document will shape development to 2041 and beyond. It is arguably the most important planning document affecting our villages in a generation.

Green separation and village identity

One of the most pressing local concerns is the land between Northstowe and the existing villages of Oakington and Longstanton. Previous assurances suggested a clear green separation would be maintained. However, inset maps in the draft plan contain designations that are ambiguous and potentially weaken that separation.

Village identity is not sentimental nostalgia; it is essential to our quality of life. Once settlements physically merge, they do not unmerge. Incremental development, plot by plot, can gradually erase boundaries that were once clear.

I have therefore requested that green separation zones be clearly and unambiguously defined on the final maps. Planning maps carry legal weight. Clarity now prevents dispute later.

The Cambridge Development Corporation and the future growth of the city

Alongside the Draft Local Plan and Local Government Reorganisation, a further and potentially more dangerous far-reaching proposal has emerged: the creation of a Cambridge Development Corporation.

Development Corporations were used extensively in the post-war period to deliver the New Towns, most infamously Milton Keynes. They sit outside the normal structure of local government, with powers granted directly by central government. However, ours will include 300,000 people and is more than ten times the geographic size of Milton Keynes. Significant planning and development decisions will be taken by an unelected body, rather than by district or county councillors. If you're not happy with what is happening locally, you will need to vote out the national government. Local issues would need to compete against national issues like immigration, taxation and the national debt, and realistically, would have no influence on the result.

The Government has made clear that Cambridge is central to its ambitions for national economic growth, particularly in science, technology and research. Ministers have spoken openly about the need to enable Cambridge to expand more rapidly, removing what are seen as constraints on housing delivery, infrastructure and commercial space. Given that the District Council has cooperated fully with the government so far in its growth plans, it isn't clear why such a drastic and undemocratic change is necessary.

The villages and hamlets around Cambridge, including Oakington and Westwick, have distinct identities that have been shaped over centuries. The danger is that we will become undifferentiated suburban districts of Cambridge as it expands into a large city. It is unlikely however, that Cambridge would retain its existing character once it has become a city of a similar size to Cardiff, Bristol or Sheffield. Cambridge's global success has long been associated with its unique setting: a compact historic city surrounded by countryside. The brightest minds in the world came here to study, lecture and research, drawn by a high quality of life. As quality of life is sidelined in favour of growth at any cost, it is not clear that it will be able to retain its top status. Cambridge is in danger of becoming the goose that laid the golden egg.

Housing

SCDC continues to manage approximately 5,700 council homes.

Key developments this year include:

- Ongoing stock condition surveys
- Continued retrofit works to improve energy efficiency
- Commitment to EPC Band C for council homes by 2030
- Implementation of new consumer standards under the Social Housing (Regulation) Act

However, tenant satisfaction figures remain concerning, particularly regarding complaint handling and perceived responsiveness. Over £1 million in rental income was reportedly lost last year due to empty council properties, with some remaining vacant for over a year. My group continues to press for faster turnaround times.

Improving Complaint Handling

Effective complaint handling is crucial for any organisation, particularly in public services like housing management. Recent survey results reveal that South Cambridgeshire's approach to managing complaints is falling behind compared to other organisations, with a satisfaction rate of just 29%. This puts the local authority among the lowest scorers, with the lowest satisfaction rate across other organisations being 28%.

Resident Involvement

When it comes to whether the landlord listens to tenants' views, only 54% of residents were satisfied. Unfortunately, when compared to similar organisations, South Cambridgeshire ranks among the lowest in tenant satisfaction related to the landlord's responsiveness and follow-through on tenant feedback.

Environment and Waste

Weekly separate food waste collections are being introduced in line with national policy. While the principle of reducing landfill is sound, the financial implications must be carefully managed. Government grants do not fully offset local costs.

A new joint waste website has been launched to improve clarity and communication. Digital improvement is welcome if it simplifies resident interaction rather than complicates it.

Beyond waste, £500,000 has been allocated by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to stabilise Baits Bite Lock on the River Cam, protecting flood management and navigation. Environmental stewardship is not limited to climate targets; it includes maintaining the infrastructure that underpins our landscape.

Transport

East West Rail continues to progress toward a Development Consent Order. The previously suggested northern route via Oakington has not been adopted, and the preferred southern alignment remains.

The Cambourne to Cambridge Busway public inquiry continued through October 2025. Early proceedings revealed procedural errors in statutory notices. While the inquiry continues, concerns remain regarding environmental impact and long-term transport strategy coherence.

Road charging, though previously abandoned in one form, has not been definitively ruled out by all transport bodies. In a rural district where driving is often a necessity rather than a luxury, such proposals must be scrutinised rigorously.

Mobile Phone Coverage

Mobile connectivity remains uneven in parts of Oakington, particularly near St Andrew's Church. A new mast near Longstanton Park & Ride is planned primarily to serve Northstowe. Because of its orientation, it may provide some incidental improvement in signal to parts of Oakington, though this cannot be guaranteed. Once operational, resident feedback will be important in assessing its impact.

Supporting Local Businesses

This year my group brought forward a motion supporting the abolition of business rates for small local businesses and pubs. Amendments introduced a proposed Commercial Land Levy, effectively substituting one tax for another. As a result, the motion was withdrawn.

Village pubs and small businesses are not merely commercial enterprises; they are social infrastructure. Their survival affects community cohesion as much as economic vitality.

Conclusion

This has been a year in which long-term decisions have overshadowed day-to-day administration. The four-day week has been made permanent. A new Local Plan proposes significant reshaping of our settlements. The District Council itself may be abolished. Central government may assume direct planning powers.

These are not minor changes. They will determine the governance, character and growth of our area for a generation.

My priorities remain clear: protecting village identity, ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with development, securing value for taxpayers and preserving democratic accountability.

If you would like to discuss any matter raised in this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cllr Thomas Bygott

07765 475 513

cldr@bygott.net

CLr Luis Navarro – Annual Report to Oakington & Westwick Parish Council (2025–26)

Dear Councillors,

Thank you for the opportunity to present my annual report. Over the past year I have continued to work on behalf of Oakington & Westwick, Northstowe, Longstanton and Over, focusing on highways improvements, community priorities, sustainable development, and strengthening essential infrastructure.

1. Highways and Transport Work

Securing the Highways Maintenance Programme for Water Lane

I am pleased to report that we secured the inclusion of **Water Lane** in the county's highways maintenance programme, a long-standing ask of residents. Water Lane has previously been subject to a **Temporary Prohibition Order** to facilitate necessary maintenance works, confirming the recognised need for investment in this route.

Supporting Local Speed Management

I have also continued responding to residents' concerns regarding speeding and road safety. This included supporting the extension and consolidation of **new 20 mph and 30 mph speed limits** across Oakington and Westwick, implemented by Cambridgeshire County Council in May 2025. These measures were designed to bring consistency to speed limits and improve village safety.

Busway & Local Travel Improvements

Ongoing fencing works on the Guided Busway continue affecting some of our commuters, have been monitored closely, and I will continue advocating for safer active-travel and bus infrastructure.

2. Strategic Planning & Development

Motion to Full Council on Limiting Large Logistics Parks

To address growing concerns about unsustainable HGV and freight movement in our division and across the county, I submitted a motion to Full Council calling for **stricter limitations on large logistics parks**. This motion seeks to ensure developments consider cumulative transport impacts and align with wider environmental and public-health objectives.

Northstowe – Approval of Two Telecommunications Masts

Two telecommunications masts in Northstowe received approval this year, following work to remove restrictive covenants and support improved mobile connectivity for the area. This is expected to **significantly improve signal quality** for residents in Northstowe, and by extension Oakington & Westwick as future phases develop.

Broader Northstowe Infrastructure Progress

Progress continues across phases 2 and 3 of Northstowe's development, including educational, transport and community facilities, informed by a pipeline of planning approvals. This ongoing growth reinforces the importance of strong infrastructure links for our villages.

3. Responding to Community Priorities

Traffic Calming Requests

Alongside structural highways programmes, I have responded to multiple community-led requests for traffic calming. This included feeding back on the impact of **speed cushions** in nearby parishes such as Oakington and Girton, where early evaluations are being considered, and community concerns are being taken into account.

Flooding as a Continuing Priority

Flood prevention and resilience remain a top priority. As a county, we have reinforced our responsibilities as Lead Local Flood Authority, working closely with the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards, Anglian Water and local flood groups.

In 2025 the County Council launched "**Prepare**", a new countywide flood-resilience campaign to help residents understand risk, develop flood plans and strengthen community readiness.

Moreover, the Council's **Flood and Water Newsletter** (May 2025) highlighted ongoing work with **Flood Group Chairs**, including knowledge sharing and preparation activities benefiting communities across our division.

4. Broader County Council Developments Impacting Our Area

Budget & Highways Investments

The County Council reaffirmed its significant investment in the county's roads, committing **£21 million in 2025–26** to maintain our 4,500-mile road, footpath and cycleway network. This sustained investment directly supports parishes like ours where maintenance backlogs have grown.

Public Health, Adult Social Care & Community Wellbeing

The Public Health Strategic Plan 2025–30 prioritises safer travel, healthy schools, addiction support, and reducing inequalities, areas that shape local services in our division.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Work

The county continues to prepare for major local government reform by 2028, which may reshape how services are delivered. Collaboration is ongoing across district partners to ensure local voices, including parish councils, are represented. Cambridgeshire County Council proposed Option A which finds Oakington & Westwick in this new unitary authority: Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire.

5. Community Engagement & Casework

I have engaged consistently with residents, parish councils, and local groups on issues including:

- drainage concerns across low-lying parts of the division,
- road-safety enforcement and signage,
- new development impacts and planning queries,
- bus service reliability and active-travel improvements (highlighted repeatedly in parish reports).

My approach remains rooted in accessibility and partnership, ensuring residents feel heard and that concerns are escalated quickly to the relevant county officers.

Over the past year we have made progress on several major priorities, from securing highways works on Water Lane, to improving digital connectivity in Northstowe, to pushing for more sustainable planning policy. At the same time, community-led issues such as speeding, drainage, and road safety remain central to my work.

I want to thank Oakington & Westwick Parish Council for your collaboration and advocacy. I look forward to continuing to represent our community with energy and commitment in the year ahead.

If you would like any further detail on any item in this report, I am very happy to provide it.