

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

LONGSTANTON WARD

COVERING LONGSTANTON, NORTHSTOWE, OAKINGTON & WESTWICK

NOVEMBER 2021

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

DAVID WILSON HOMES – IMPACT PILING ENFORCEMENT ACTION

We have been asked by the Parish and Northstowe Town Councillors to provide a timeline of events related to the piling that was taking place in breach of planning conditions on the David Wilson Homes Site (Vistry)- please see below. Planning enforcement are currently preparing a prosecution file to act against the developers for their failure to cease this work when they were instructed to do so.

The developers have now made an application for a change to the CEMP to allow the piling work to be completed. We have this update regarding the piling:

The developer's original strategy based on the ground investigation results was for all foundations to be trench fill, with further testing required across site to determine the exact depths of each foundation. Further testing on the area in question identified trench fill foundations would no longer be suitable. This was due to localised tree influence from a former hedge line. Vistry carried out desiccation testing of the clay to try and mitigate the requirement for piling, but this confirmed piling was necessary. Vistry have chosen CFA (Continuous Flight Augur Piling) rather than driven piles as the least intrusive technique, virtually vibration free and one of the quietest methods. The technique is an extraction process rather than displacement method which you would associate with driven piles.

14th September- the first complaints were received via email and on social media about the piling noise.

15th September- we collated these complaints and forwarded them to the Planning Officer Andrew Thompson (AT) and enforcement officers first thing on the morning of 15th.

AT wrote to developers reminding them this work was not permitted under the conditions of the CEMP and asking for them to cease work immediately.

16th- As work continued the 16th we chased this again with planning enforcement at 10.11am. We asked for enforcement officers to attend site.

17th- When work was still ongoing, we escalated this to Cllr Tumi Hawkins, the Lead Member for Planning and she escalated this to Will Holloway, Principal Planning enforcement officer and Sharon Brown in Planning. We were informed at this point that the Northstowe enforcement case officer Tony Wallis was on leave and that they had not been able to arrange for another officer to attend site as all officers were already on-site visits but that they were drafting a Breach of Conditions Notice and

seeking legal advice regarding a Temporary Stop Notice. Cllr Cheung Johnson rang and spoke directly to the site manager and informed them of the pending enforcement action and work did finally stop.

18th/19th- No work carried out over the weekend.

20th- Unfortunately, piling work restarted after the weekend, at which point we demanded enforcement attend site. Tony Wallis visited and issued a verbal warning to the developers asking them to cease work immediately. Both Sarah and I attempted to call the site manager when work continued but he did not respond to our calls or messages.

21st- When work continued despite the verbal warning Tony Wallis attended site and issued the Stop Notice directly to the site manager. No further piling work was carried out.

ZERO CARBON COMMUNITIES GRANT SCHEME

Congratulations to Northstowe Horticultural Association who were again amongst the successful applicants to this year's Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme.

The scheme will be open for another round of applications next year and we would be very happy to support other local groups who would like to apply. The grants support projects which contribute to reducing carbon emissions and helping South Cambs district to meet the target of net zero carbon by 2050.

For further details: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/fresh-batch-of-grass-roots-green-projects-receive-funding-to-help-zero-carbon-drive/?fbclid=IwAR3yrnwhT4p78j4oD2HLgeGIHBI5BmU3O284gigrI-cAcwFddoixH6Feleg>

DISTRICT COUNCIL STAFF NEWS

An additional community development officer for Phase 2 is being recruited (this is addition to Jon London's role). Interview have not taken place for this role.

Sadly, we are losing our principal planner for Northstowe Andrew Thompson. Andrew has been with us for nearly two years, and we are saddened to lose a really great officer who has worked so hard on the Northstowe development. We are also losing all the historical knowledge that Andrew has built up though we understand he has provided thorough briefing notes for his successor. We will be pushing Greater Cambridge Planning to look at longer-term strategic planning cover for Northstowe.

NORTHSTOWE COMMUNITY FORUM

Notes from the Forum 13 October 2021 will be updated here <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-development/northstowe-community-forum/>

We are reviewing with the community team how to make these less rushed and packed, agenda wise. We will also continue to push for additional information including an FAQ on things such as delivery dates for facilities, to be made available so that we avoid covering the same ground repeatedly at forums.

KEEPMOAT HOMES PLANNING APPLICATION NORTHSTOWE PHASE 2B

The reserved matters application for three hundred dwellings was approved by South Cambs Planning Committee. This application includes affordable housing provision, non-residential floorspace, landscaping, open space and associated infrastructure for access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale following the outline planning permission S/2011/14/OL Phase 2B, Northstowe Land South of Rampton Drift Northstowe Cambridgeshire.

APPROVAL OF ENDURANCE ESTATES PLANNING APPLICATION

At the November meeting of the planning committee approval was also given for the outline planning application for the demolition of a house and associated buildings, to be replaced with up to 107 homes, and employment / community / café / development on land west of Station Road (adjacent to the current Bloor homes and Northstowe Phase 3b) by Endurance Estates Land Promotion Ltd and Longstanton Parish Council, the trustees of the Charity Allotments for Public Stone, Gravel and Clay Pits.

APPROVAL FOR PLANS FOR THE SPORT PAVILION

Detailed plans for a sports pavilion and changing facilities for Northstowe, drawn-up by South Cambridgeshire District Council, have been approved.

At the meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee on Wednesday 10 November 2021, a planning application that sets out the access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale for the new pavilion, was approved. The plans also include a club room for community use and events. Residents have fed into the building's design via the Council's Northstowe Community Forum. The planning application was supported by Northstowe Town Council, Longstanton Parish Council and by ourselves as District Councillors.

The new pavilion will be constructed around the edge of the bowling green at the Northstowe Western Park. It will provide local sports teams with six changing rooms, changing facilities for sports officials, a kitchen, clubroom, reception and office space, a kitchen, and toilets.

An air source heat pump will be installed to provide heating and hot water for the building, which will have energy efficient LED lighting. Conduits to allow the future installation of Electric Vehicle charging points in the car park will be installed during construction. There will be solar panels on the roof and bird or bat boxes within the walls.

£1.1 million in funding to construct the pavilion was secured by South Cambridgeshire District Council from developers L&Q Estates. Additional costs to further boost the quality of the building, and make it environmentally friendly, are being met by the Council.

The application was brought to the Planning Committee to determine because the District Council is the applicant.

The council expects to tender for a construction partner in the coming weeks. Once a construction partner is in place and on site we will have a more accurate picture of timescales, currently the

programme proposes that our construction partner will start on site April 2022 with completion in Spring 2023 (we are mindful of currently issues regarding material and labour shortages which are causing delays in construction projects).

We have been asked for clarification regarding EV charging points, the construction specification will include a number of these, and that ducting will be provided for additional units that may be installed at a later date. There are a number of reasons to keep this to a “minimum” at this stage: -

- 1) Demand (for EV charging at the Pavilion) has not been established
- 2) Future governance has not been established
- 3) The financial sum received from L&Q (S106 monies) is considerably short of the amount required to deliver the sports pavilion. As SCDC will be picking-up the shortfall we were/are required to value engineer the scheme to deliver best value. This could still be changed (without recourse to planning).

PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR NORTHSTOWE PHASE 3A AND 3B

The proposals for Northstowe Phase 3A and 3B, were due to go to Planning Committee on the 16th November 2021 but that was postponed and the application will go to a meeting of the planning committee on 2nd December. All those who commented on the original application should receive an updated invitation to speak to the committee. If you have received this and would like to make representations at the meeting you are requested to contact: democratic.services@scamb.gov.uk Members of the public wishing to speak at this meeting are requested to contact the Support Officer by no later than 4pm two clear working days before the meeting. Written statements can also be submitted if you are unable to attend the meeting.

We will be speaking to object to these proposals, echoing Oakington Parish Council concerns over flood alleviation, adequate green separation, and the Southern Access Road East and concerns from Northstowe and Longstanton residents on highways and access for Phase 3B.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY WIDE NEWS

LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION IS NOW LIVE

The consultation is now open on the new Local Plan and residents are urged to give their feedback on the First Proposals for the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan, during a six-week public consultation.

Feedback from residents, businesses and groups in the area will help to shape the plan – which will eventually set out how Greater Cambridge will develop over the next twenty years. Online and in-person events will take place over the next month, where residents can discuss the plans with Council officers, and the whole Plan is available for comment online.

The Councils have set out an ambitious vision for minimising carbon emissions alongside improving the quality of life for residents across the area, with all new homes to be carbon neutral. The proposals at this stage include nineteen new sites for homes and business space, with the majority of extra

development proposed for Northeast Cambridge and the Cambridge Airport site. It sets out a range of new policies to meet the environmental challenges facing the area – including tackling carbon emissions and increasing biodiversity, while highlighting that this can only happen if further work is done to address current water supply issues. Residents can comment using a quick questionnaire or leave more detailed comments on specific sites and policy proposals.

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

3,900 new homes at Northeast Cambridge, on and near the site of the current wastewater treatment plant

2,950 new homes at Cambridge East (the airport site).

An additional 1,950 new homes at Cambourne, though without specific land identified at this stage;

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

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

Six additional village sites, totalling 384 homes;

One additional site in central Cambridge, for twenty homes.

North East Cambridge, Cambridge East and potentially Cambourne are new long-term proposals which would see continuing development after 2041, in order to realise their full potential.

These new development sites are being suggested by the Councils due to the continuing strength of the Greater Cambridge economy as one of the most important research and innovation employment hubs in the UK. Planners say that making plans for fewer homes, when the number of jobs locally is expected to continue increasing, could mean more long-distance commuting and housing becoming more costly. However, the plan strategy is dependent on improvements to the water supply – such as new reservoirs - being achieved without environmental harm and in time to support new development. If the water industry and central government do not take action, the number of new homes proposed may need to be reduced.

The Local Plan consultation is run by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, the shared service for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils. It is one of a number of important consultations on the future of the area, happening this autumn. Consultations are also taking place over the next two months on transport proposals around the area, run by the Greater Cambridge Partnership, as well as the Combined Authority's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

Aligning with the key themes of the local plan, these proposals seek to reduce day-to-day car trips by providing better public transport, walking, and cycling routes, and digital connectivity – all with the aim of getting Greater Cambridge to net zero carbon by 2050. The Local Plan is informed by ground-breaking carbon modelling that has brought together the carbon impacts from transport, construction, and everyday use for the first time, and this has allowed the Councils to select sites that minimise future climate impacts.

The consultation opened at 9am on Monday 1 November 2021 and runs until 5pm on Monday 13 December 2021. Visit the Greater Cambridge Planning website for more details, including online and in-person events. <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan>

Unfortunately, the planning service are not holding an in-person event in Oakington despite our request for this, Cllr Tumi Hawkins, cabinet member for planning has offered to attend Oakington Parish Council and we have asked the Parish Council if they would like to consider an online event for the village.

For Longstanton, we are confirming details of what can be consulted on with regards to the additional plot identified off Home Farm Road and will update when we have more details.

GRANT SCHEME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

As reported to parish councils by email last month, a new grant has opened aimed at providing funds for projects that support children and young people. £38,000 is available through the scheme for projects which help to empower children and young people; helping them to build self-belief and make a positive difference to themselves and their community. Organisations that are independently set-up for charitable or social benefit (including Parish Councils) can apply for grants of between £4,000 and £8,000. This is being administered via the Grants Advisory Committee, who will review all the applications and award the grants to successful projects in early 2022.

The deadline for applications is Wednesday November 10th. More information, including application criteria, can be found here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/new-grant-scheme-opens-for-local-organisations-working-with-children-and-young-people/>

GROWTH FUND

Because of South Cambs' success in getting all the government's Covid grants out quickly and efficiently to our businesses they received an additional sum of Growth Fund money to spend. Applications are now closed, and grants have been allocated (a total of £1,377,500). The total fund was not for businesses to survive Covid but for businesses that have survived to be able to grow and in so doing increase the number of people they employ, their turnover and their profits.

COUNCIL SERVICES TO SUPPORT PEOPLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

Residents and local community groups may like to know about a few Council services that are in place to support people to live independently at home, to keep connected and to know that someone will regularly be in touch with them or on the end of the phone if they need some practical help.

South Cambs' Visiting Support Service is free for people over the age of 65, with a short-term focus to support people in their home – perhaps someone recovering from an operation, or who will be on their own for a short period of time, or who is having an unexpected crisis. The Community Warden Service is longer-term, and a nominal fee is payable; clients can be of any age, and the wardens will ring up or visit on a regular basis, and can help with tasks such as form-filling, picking up some essentials from the shop, or just being a friendly face. The Community Lifeline Service (under £4.50/week) provides a worn pendant that individuals of any age can press in an emergency, such as if they have a fall at home on their own. You can find out more about all these services on our website:

www.scambs.gov.uk/visitingsupportservice

www.scambs.gov.uk/mobilewardenscheme

www.scambs.gov.uk/lifelines

We have produced some leaflets and posters to raise awareness of these services-attached are samples. If you would like some leaflets or a few posters to display, please email Lesley.McFarlane@Scambs.gov.uk.

SOUTH CAMBS CHRISTMAS MARKET

SCDC's Business Support team is organising an outdoor Christmas market in Cambourne on Sunday 5 December 3pm to 8pm.

Do you know any local performers who may like to perform on the stage at the event for about 30 minutes? They could be school, college or community groups, choirs or amateur dramatics group, musicians, or bands. Please ask them to get in touch with the organising team at:

reopening@scambs.gov.uk

More details can be found here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/south-cambridgeshire-outdoor-christmas-market/>

CLLR FIROUZ THOMPSON – COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

ROADS/PATHS IN AND AROUND NORTHSTOWE

LONGSTANTON PARK AND RIDE CONNECTIVITY: The design for this pathway link should be ready by next week, it has taken a while as it required input from third parties e.g. utilities and we can never be certain that they will respond to any enquiries promptly. We are hoping that the design will get accepted.

PERMANENT BUSWAY LINK TO PHASE 1: Following authorisation, County Council will now go out for tender for this new busway link, the stages will be roughly as follows: tender needs to be written and approved, drawings need to be updated, tender issued, review of responses, award tender, arrange and sign contract and arrange works. This process still carries the risk that the prices we get back are more than the available budget, which is the current problem that we have.

PATH CONNECTIONS FROM PHASE 1 AND 2: This is not works that the County Council is responsible for. This requires a legal document and design work to tie in the two sections which we assume have been completed. Homes England updated in the summer that the connection would be before the end of the year, I will be following this up.

RAMPTON DRIFT CROSSING ON BUSWAY TO NORTHSTOWE: Initially the works will consist of improving the vegetation to be cut back to improve visibility, and the speed of the buses to be reduced to 30mph. The scope of the other works is to improve the surfaces on either side of the crossing place. Unfortunately, it is not possible to remove the stepped nature of the crossing as the Cambridge Guided Busway is on a curve and needs to be guided at this location. The County team are awaiting quotes from Highway's maintenance contractors to level either side of the busway.

Also, additional costings are being drawn up to see whether lighting columns just on the Northstowe side of the crossing can be made sufficient to light the crossing point to enable the electric requirements to tap into the existing connection for the pumping station. Pleased to say that Homes England have committed to supplying this. We are currently awaiting for a drawing for lighting column location.

We hope that the above costs will then be covered under S106 for phase 2 Northstowe, therefore we are having conversations with the main builders for Phase 2 regarding this funding.

Timelines are currently difficult to commit to until the order is in with the contractor to do the works. The future plans for leaving Northstowe to go towards Cambridge are on the busway will be via the busway through the town centre and out of Northstowe just north of Oakington when this road opens.

PATHS TO NORTHSTOWE SECONDARY SCHOOL AND MARTIN BACON ACADEMY: Over the last month works have continued on these paths when the weather has been good to us.

Path: the final surfacing of the path (red tarmac) was completed on 3 November, making it a much safe route for the kids to travel to local schools and residents to use the path to Northstowe and Guided Busway.

Fencing: If the weather stays on our side, Sisk hope that the fencing can be removed by mid / late November.

Lighting: Sisk are currently in discussions with the energy supplier with regards to getting the permanent connection completed. In the meantime, they have illuminated the path with a high-powered spotlight in the middle of the path.

Bridleway resurfacing: Sisk will be meeting on Friday 5 November with the local Bridleway Association, to discuss the required surfacing finish to the footpath beside Rampton Drift. Once this is agreed Sisk will then look to complete these works asap.

INCIDENT: Unfortunately, early in November Northstowe Secondary (NSC) school reported that "a pupil had an accident on his way to school coming from Rampton. He got caught by a car, knocking him off his bike onto the road. Luckily, he was wearing a helmet, which was damaged, but it protected his head. They are bruised and shocked but thankfully ok."

The above incident was reported to the Police, but unfortunately the car did not stop, if you have any information please do get in touch with the Police on 101. Please can remind all parents/carers when driving their children to school, to reduce their speed.

CCC Road Safety Education Team met with NSC Head Teacher this month for a site visit and to discuss the travel plans of their pupils. We will be working with the school to put in place actions around the safety of the pupils of the school.

INCIDENT ON STATION ROAD on 10 November: It was reported on Social Media that there was an incident on Station Road and lights were not working on 11 November in the morning. The team at Cambridgeshire County Council had a look at our systems to check updates. Sadly, one of our cabinets was no more, luckily this was a secondary cabinet and not the main one that also controls the site to the south. We needed to turn off this site for safety reasons and we arranged a set of temporary traffic signals, including the pedestrian crossings, to be installed on the same day. Replacement of the permanent equipment was completed within two days. We are very lucky that there were no injuries, and a pedestrian was not walking on the footway when the car hit the box and sign. The clear up of the area may take a little longer, L&Q and Greenbelt have both been notified.

Regarding costs, County Council will be claiming back whatever they can for the signals from the insured, if this is not possible then they will be trying the Motor Insurance Bureau.

I have requested that the Council's Road Safety team investigate the collision history on the B1050 from Guided Buses to Roundabout, to see if any further measures can be put in place.

SOUTH ACCESS ROAD WEST (SARW) CONNECTION TO B1050 : Contracts were signed between CCC and Highways England last month and work have been schedule to be completed by February 2022. Details can be found on One Network <https://one.network/?GB123875197>

W/c 1 November BT Openreach roadworks: Following complaints raised by local residents on Social Media and directly to me, Cambridgeshire County Council inspector visited site on 4 November to investigate the lack of manual control on BT Openreach's work, as there is a condition on their permit that they must manually control the signals between 07:00 - 19:00.

We could see from our one.network incident log from 4 November that there were queues in excess of one mile, so clearly they weren't managing the lights as per the permit conditions. We will address this accordingly and issue fixed penalty notices for breaching their conditions where appropriate. Whilst these are BT Openreach's works, they are in fact diversionary works to lower their apparatus in preparation for the Homes England works prior to the new road being tied in to the B1050.

Sisk has similar conditions to manually control their lights between 06:30 - 10:00 and 14:30 - 19:00 and to remove the lights when not required during their works, which are planned between 10-12 weeks. Not all of their work will require roadworks, they have stated only 6 weeks.

Chair of Highways, Cllr Peter McDonald, County Officer and myself met with Homes England on 16 November to discuss how the rest of these planned works will be managed. We have requested that we are updated each week on a Friday of the plans for the following week by email and we will inform residents via local Facebook pages. We are awaiting feedback and will update Northstowe Town Council and Longstanton Parish Council.

HATTONS WATER PARK B1050 CYCLE PATH TO SARW: The current plan for the B1050 cycleway is to begin construction in Spring 2022. The detailed designs are still being finalised and there are a few details and risks to iron out before this can be realised. These works depend on the completion of works to the Northstowe link road roundabout that are being undertaken by Sisk (as mentioned above). We are also in negotiation with National Highways (formerly Highways England) as well as the landowners regarding a piece of land at the southern end of the route. Once the details around construction have been ironed out, we will have greater certainty about the dates for scheme delivery.

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

COUNTY WIDE NEWS

20 MPH ZONES AND HGVs

Extra powers, 20mph zones and HGVs are just a few key traffic topics that will be discussed at the Highways and Transport Committee on Thursday, 4 November.

Members of the committee will be hearing updates on various traffic management issues, including King's Parade. Whilst the replacement scheme of the King's Parade barrier is being worked on by the City Council, the joint administration is keen to look more widely at the terror threat in Cambridge. Following a briefing session with the Counter Terrorism Security Advisor, who discussed the detail of the terror threat, risk assessment and the anti-terror plan, Cllr McDonald and Cllr Bird would like to review the terror threat in Cambridge as a whole. Once discussed at committee, this work will be carried out in partnership with the City Council and the police.

Another key topic is Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), a cross-party group of members will be reviewing the County Council's HGV policy, looking at best practice and what actions could be taken to address the issues across the county, which not only impact our roads but our villages and communities. The group will also look at the criteria for Local Highways Improvement schemes or privately funded applications and the introduction of weight limits. The committee will hear how this HGV group will be working on a revised policy which will then be presented back to Highways and Transport Committee next year.

One agenda item is 20mph speed limits, the joint administration is keen to implement more 20mph schemes across the county and the committee will hear how they're proposing to do this. The council's 20mph policy and how the schemes are implemented will be reviewed working with the Vision Zero Partnership, which aims to halve road deaths and serious injuries by 2030 and to zero by 2040.

Cllr Peter McDonald, Chairman of the Highways and Transport Committee said: "The committee in November is going to be given updates on some big issues impacting our communities. I'm pleased one of those is 20mph zones, as a joint administration this was one of our priorities and we know the greatest impact in reducing traffic speeds is delivered by 20mph zones featuring traffic calming. I want to see more of these zones and the process more streamlined for parish and town councils."

The committee will also hear how Cambridgeshire County Council could apply for powers to enforce 'moving traffic offences'. The county is looking to apply to the Department of Transport for powers relating to part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This would only apply where there is a civil parking enforcement area, currently Cambridge City, and would involve enforcing moving traffic offences such as vehicles making banned turns and obstructing yellow boxes.

Cllr McDonald added: "The part 6 powers would act as a tool in reducing congestion and improving air quality and could complement our active travel plans by keeping vehicles out of cycle lanes and helping public transport."

The [committee papers](#) will be discussed at the Highways and Transport committee on 4 November. The meeting will be live streamed on the [council's YouTube channel](#).

STAY SAFE ON THE ROADS

As the clocks go back this Sunday (October 31st) we are urging people to be safe and be seen on our roads.

Cambridgeshire County Council is asking road users to take extra care in the darker evenings, especially in bad weather when visibility may be reduced.

On duller days, light, bright or fluorescent clothing is much more visible, and at night, reflective elements and lights are really important, particularly if you are out running, cycling, dog-walking or horse riding.

After the clocks change you might be leaving home in the morning in the light, but find it is getting dark when you head home, so it's important to think ahead so you don't get caught out.

Drivers are urged to look out for others and to give cyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists and horse riders plenty of space. Low sun and damp, dull conditions will also affect your view so give yourself a little bit more time and space too.

Motorists are also advised to check their vehicles and make sure their cars are ready for the winter months and to ensure every journey is road safe. Make sure lights, mirrors and windows are clean and clear and don't just rely on automatic lights, wipers and warning lights.

Cllr Peter McDonald, Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "Of all the seasons, winter requires the most care and preparation if you're to stay safe.

"People will be travelling to and from work or education in darker conditions during this time of year, so the annual 'be safe, be seen' campaign is always an important reminder."

"In winter it's even more important to check your vehicle is well maintained and serviced and always be clear on the route you are taking. Stay safe this winter and log onto [the Think! Road Safety advice page](#) for more winter handy hints."

Road safety advice includes:

- Bright or fluorescent clothes show up best by day, especially in dull or misty weather.
- By night, reflective material is best and shows up in car headlights fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark.
- Choose routes that are well lit and cross in well-lit places, preferably marked crossings.
- Cyclists must comply with the law by using a white front light, a red back light and a red reflector at the back. It is key cyclists remain vigilant to their surroundings and reduce use of headphones and of course always wear a helmet.
- Motorists should overtake only when it is safe to do so, and drivers should pass slowly and allow plenty of room when overtaking.
- It is essential your vehicle is winter road ready. We recommend you follow the handy
- POWDERY checklist:
- **P**etrol (or diesel) - don't run out of fuel or electric charge
- **O**il - check levels once a month
- **W**ater - check radiator and screen wash once a month
- **D**amage - check wipers, lights etc for signs of wear and tear or damage
- **E**lectrics - check lights, indicators and controls are working properly
- **R**ubber - are your tyres well inflated, legal, with good tread and free from damage? .
- **Y**ourself - are you fit to drive?

More advice on staying safe on the roads this autumn and winter is available at [the Think! Road Safety advice page](#).

QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

Next year marks 70 years since Queen Elizabeth II took the throne; to celebrate the anniversary and create a lasting legacy, a UK-wide tree planting initiative named The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) has been established.

The unique scheme involves inviting people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee," with everyone encouraged to plant trees in the current and in the next planting season (October 2021 – March 2022 and October 2022 – March 2023). Any trees planted in this period can be badged under the project.

To drive the push locally, both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are working with the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Julie Spence, to raise awareness of the project and with residents, community groups, schools, businesses and other partners to encourage and support their participation. Everyone is invited to take part and it is easy to get involved – whether you

are an expert gardener or complete novice, there is something you can do. This includes individuals planting trees on private land, community planting projects, schools planting trees on their premises and businesses setting up tree planting projects with employees.

So far, trees have been planted in three local schools: Woodston Primary School in Peterborough, Spring Meadow Infant & Nursery School in Ely and St Philip's Church of England Primary School in Cambridge. Both Councils have also committed to carrying out planting within their rural estates,

We'd like to ask for your support in encouraging community groups, schools, residents and businesses in your ward/division to create their own planting projects. More information about what, where and when to plant can be found here: [The Queen's Green Canopy Project - Cambridgeshire County Council](#).

A national map is being hosted on the national QGC website where planting projects can be added, so everyone can view the contribution being made across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. If you know of a planting project taking place in your ward/division, then please encourage the organiser to add it to the map: [Map - The Queen's Green Canopy \(queensgreencanopy.org\)](#). Plaques are also available from the Queen's Green Canopy website. We can also support the organisation of planting events, and facilitate the attendance of Mayors, the Lord Lieutenant or one of her Deputies, and other dignitaries.

ENHANCED RESPONSE AREA STATUS VITAL TO PROTECT NHS AND VITAL SERVICES

Local leaders have welcomed the announcement that, following an approach from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils, the Government has agreed that both areas will become an Enhanced Response Area for tackling the Covid pandemic from Monday.

They have pledged to use it to push for additional measures and resources to drive down recent rises in Covid-19 infection and to protect vulnerable people, the NHS and other vital services as the winter months approach.

Rising rates in older people coupled with building pressures on local health and education services led to the Councils who are both responsible for public health to ask Government to grant the whole area 'enhanced response area' status for at least five weeks from Monday November 1 - to bring down infection rates which are currently higher in most areas than seen in January's peak.

An application by Jyoti Atri the area's joint Director of Public Health – supported by lead politicians and local health partners – for Enhanced Response Area status was agreed by Government today.

The ERA status allows us to push for additional support to:

- Accelerate and target 12-15 vaccination roll out to key areas and schools where infections are highest
- Accelerate booster vaccinations for eligible groups who have had their second vaccination more than six months ago
- Increase vaccination rate in areas with the lowest uptake

In addition, as part of ERA status the area will enter into further discussions with the DfE about additional measures it can use in schools, but in the meantime it will continue to:

- Encourage secondary school teachers or pupils who are household contacts of positive cases to take daily LFT tests
- Continue with advice given to schools before the half term that face coverings should be worn in secondary school communal areas, and that meetings happen virtually where possible
- Encourage anyone who is a household contact of a positive case to take daily rapid tests, until a negative PCR test is received

For the general population a government funded additional communications push will also begin from next week

- Recommending wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed areas where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet'
- Reminding people to get their vaccinations, test regularly and particularly before attending events, meet with others outside their households in well ventilated spaces and wash hands regularly and well

Link to further details: [Enhanced Response Area status vital to protect NHS and vital services - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

COVID-19 UPDATES

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

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

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

Vaccination bookings www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

Vaccination walk-in centres and pop-up clinics www.thevaccinators.co.uk

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

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

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

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

TESTING: Mobile rapid testing vehicles continue to visit sites across the county, offering on-the-spot lateral flow tests as well as test kits to take away and complete at home. You can also order kits to use at home. More information at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

INFORMATION:

<https://twitter.com/CambsCC>

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

RESIDENTS AT RISK OF FLOODING TO BE GIVEN EXTRA SUPPORT

Further action will be taken to protect Cambridgeshire homes from flooding, caused by excess surface water and high levels of rainfall.

Members of Cambridgeshire County Council agreed at Full Council on Tuesday (9 November) to invest more money to support residents who live in areas which are at risk. Following the decision, the council will:

- Look into the county's underground highways system and assess any known problems it may have coping with large amounts of water in a small period
- To use these findings to predict which systems may be overwhelmed and use this information in future planning
- Ensure the findings of the Winter 2020/21 flooding report are reflected in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy when considering surface water in future highways projects
- Commit to the people of Cambridgeshire that anywhere small bore pipework is causing an issue it will be addressed by carrying out an assessment of the full cost of a programme of works to either replace the small-bore soak away pipework, with appropriate higher bore pipe work solutions that bring immediate relief and also future proof as predicted or supply full details of alternative solutions in those areas with fully costed plans of actions that will mitigate and protect property in areas of known puddling. Consideration of solutions and costs for addressing surface water flooding issues to go through the Council's ongoing business planning process
- Ask Cambridgeshire County Council's Chief Executive to write to all planning authority chairs, water companies and other relevant agencies to seek their input on these possible strategies

These plans will ensure residents of homes at risk of flooding caused by heavy downpours are as protected as possible.

EDUCATION

A campaign has been launched to find more people willing to serve on the governing bodies of schools in Cambridgeshire. Schools are looking for governors who can bring a variety of skills and expertise from a wide range of backgrounds.

Governors – who are volunteers – support the strategic leadership of the school, providing support, challenge and accountability to the school’s headteacher and senior leaders. The headteacher is responsible for the operational running of the school on a day-to-day basis. Cambridgeshire County Council is particularly seeking to build diverse governing bodies which reflect the communities they serve, enabling children to succeed and thrive.

Previous experience of being a school governor is not necessary, as full induction and training will be offered. Experience of working in education is not necessary either.

Governors are usually appointed for a four-year term. Time commitments vary from school to school, but to fulfil the role effectively, governors are expected to sit on individual committees, visit the school regularly and attend full governing body meetings.

Responsibilities include working as part of a team, maintaining educational standards and performance, holding the school to account and monitoring the school’s budget.

Further information about the role and how to apply can be found here: [School governors - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

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

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

GREATER CAMBRIDGESHIRE PARTNERSHIP – MAKING CONNECTIONS CONSULTATION

Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership consultation has started. It could make a difference to how you get around and essential to transforming our public transport.

We need a better public transport system to ensure that most people have a quicker, more convenient and reliable journey than by car. It is extremely important that everyone has their say.

Please take time to fill out the survey, there is a map available for St Ives corridor map which includes Northstowe, Longstanton and Oakington.

The consultation closes at midday on Monday 20 December 2021

Details included are:

- Quicker, more frequent rural and city bus services
- Extended bus operating hours
- Making Greater Cambridge a better place to live and travel in and around more easily
- Simplified bus routes
- Shorter journey times
- New services linking buses into the core network
- Improved walking and cycling facilities to connect to buses
- The different ways this could be funded

Check out the #MakingConnections proposals in more detail and share your thoughts <https://tinyurl.com/yb4jea5v>

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>

COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Monthly email newsletter - with updates on local news as well as wider district issues which will impact us all. To sign up please go to: https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/email_signup_longstanton

(Note to help us manage GDPR it is easier for us to host from the LibDems webpage, but we absolutely promise this link will NOT subscribe you to LibDem news)

For all the latest news & updates so far please go to: https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/longstanton_news

For those on social media we have a highly active Facebook group covering the whole ward here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/>

Contact Details

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these, or any other matters.

Alex Malyon and Sarah Cheung Johnson

District Councillors for Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick and Northstowe

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

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