

LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLOR REPORT JANUARY 2024

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (8TH JANUARY 2024)

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (8TH JANUARY 2024)

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (30TH JANUARY 2024)

CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and I look forward to working with you, our community groups, and with our residents in 2024.

This month my report is relatively light as the festive season meant less activity, and do please let me know if there's anything in particular you need more information about or support with anything that isn't covered.

Flooding

The first week of the year has been full of queries about flooding from residents for obvious reasons. I have been following up with housing officers in particular about some of the issues that SCDC deal with. As a reminder, anyone asking for advice can visit the SCDC Flooding advice page: [Flooding - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/flooding). Key links in this page are:

Who is responsible for what when it comes to flooding?

- Flooding from a sewer: This is likely the responsibility of Anglian Water. You can [report an issue to them online](#) or call them on [0345 791 9155](tel:03457919155)
- Blocked drain on the road or pavement: This is likely the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council. You can [report an issue to them online](#)
- Flooded property or garden: You can report external flooding to gardens or paths, or report that you have already experienced flooding within the living space of your home, [to Cambridgeshire County Council](#). It may be possible to investigate the cause of flooding or offer advice. However, remember that it is the home-owner's responsibility to protect their own properties from flooding
- Flooding at a South Cambridgeshire District Council property: Our Housing Services will fix any serious drainage problem. Call our free repairs hotline on [0800 085 1313](tel:08000851313) to [report an emergency repair](#)

Local Plan update and "Cambridge 2040"

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service continues to work on the new Local Plan which is intended to supersede the one delivered belatedly by the previous administration in 2018. Adopted Local Plans become the planning policy framework for an area and they are incredibly important. Progress this time has been hampered by matters out of the councils' control, such as uncertainties relating to water availability, the relocation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant (from its current site off Cowley Road Cambridge to Horningsea which, in doing so, creating a huge brownfield site suitable for development) and a sustainable transport strategy.

Further complications have been introduced by the government's Cambridge 2040 policy. Although details of the plans are still very vague, it proposes supercharged development in

Greater Cambridge of commercial/scientific capacity and a quantum of new homes that is *three times* that proposed by local authorities in the emerging Local Plan. The government has also announced that the responsibility for the delivery of this growth will be taken from our local planners and transferred to a development corporation “DevCo” which will operate remotely and answer directly to the Secretary of State. The obstacles to their plan will be the same as those facing our own planners (as described above) and it will be interesting to see if they elect to spend the huge sums necessary in mitigation and/or adopt unpopular policies to relieve the congestion and air-quality issue that such growth is bound to create. I will continue to monitor this and report in.

Corporate Peer Challenge

SCDC recently published the conclusions of a [Peer Review](#) which was conducted by the LGA at the administration’s request. The review panel was made up of elected members and senior officers from other councils. These reviews are voluntary, politically neutral and act as a critical friend, highlighting strengths and suggesting areas for development. The report praised the Council’s high levels of engagement with communities, especially related to the Greater Cambridgeshire Local Plan and praised its ‘Statement of Community involvement.’ The review noted the positive working culture within the Council and recognised the improvements made in this respect since the administration took control in 2018. The leadership team and CEO were singled out for special praise.

The report recognised the Council’s performance-led culture and highlighted several successful practices. They highlighted revised key performance indicators (KPIs) emerging from the Scrutiny and Overview committee and suggested the incorporation of additional KPIs into specific areas. They recognised that the council has adopted best-practice by appointing a member of the political opposition to chair the Scrutiny and Overview committee.

Most importantly, the report recognised the Council’s strong financial position with a balanced budget predicted through to 2024/25 and with reserves of £61M recorded at the end of the last financial year. They identified minimal investment risk and a well-structured and robust investment governance strategy. SCDC is one of very few councils in the country able to show such a positive financial position and, as a result, the council has been able to devote significant resources to deliver cost of living support, green initiatives and positive community outcomes.

The review’s authors explicitly noted that the ongoing Four-day Working Week trial was not within the scope of the Corporate Peer Challenge.

Permanent Community Building Northstowe

The Council’s Planning Committee (Wednesday 13 December 2023) voted to approve the plans for the Permanent Community Building on Stirling Road, Northstowe – adjacent to where the Council’s temporary community centre is located. More information can be found [here](#).

Western Park Sports Pavilion, Northstowe

The Western Park Sports Pavilion in Northstowe will soon be open for business. The appointed management company have been handed the keys and they are busy recruiting staff and purchasing the furniture and other necessary items. The pavilion is an impressive building, with six Rugby XV changing rooms and a large event/clubroom serving drinks and food. In the mix of sports groups in Northstowe, Longstanton Bowls Club intend to use the facilities from the Spring.

How Are We Doing? SCDC Survey

A [How are we doing survey](#) has been launched by SCDC to get feedback from residents across the district. Please share the link so that SCDC can hear from as many voices as possible to help deliver service improvements for residents and businesses across our district. This is a chance to say what you think we are getting right and where we need to get better.

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: cllr.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