

LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLOR REPORT JANUARY 2024

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (5TH FEBRUARY 2024)

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (12TH FEBRUARY 2024)

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (27TH FEBRUARY 2024)

CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

Annual report on sustainable and affordable homes

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (Cambs City and SCDC) recently reported on the progress made during the past year on building sustainable and affordable new homes. This shows that the Councils remain on track to deliver the need for homes identified in their adopted Local Plans. 794 new affordable homes were completed in 2023/24, 472 of which were in South Cambridgeshire. Affordable housing is defined as social rented, affordable rented, and intermediate housing provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the housing market. Also of note is the making of three new Neighbourhood Plans which show the Councils' ongoing commitment to local community development.

More details can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/5bu3f5f7>

Grant funding: The National Lottery's Climate Action Fund

This is not a SCDC initiative but I think it's worth drawing your attention to the Climate Action Fund, which is underpinned by National Lottery funding. It is intended to support community projects that show that 'communities can address climate change while tackling the energy challenges through community-led climate action.'

Substantial sums are available (though not directly to parish councils) – between £500K and £1.5M for community and voluntary organisations and local partnerships. More information can be found at the link below <http://tinyurl.com/4j69fkp5>

Consultation on air quality strategy

Residents of Greater Cambridge are being invited to help shape a new Air Quality Strategy which seeks to improve air quality in the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire area, to protect the health and wellbeing of residents. Cambridge City and SCDC are working together to develop the strategy which aims to meet stricter air quality targets that were set out by the World Health Organisation (WHO). There is no safe level of air pollution, which is why both councils are seeking to reduce levels of air pollution as much as possible.

The survey gives residents the opportunity to share their thoughts on the proposals and the action plan which will be used to develop the final version of the strategy. The consultation will close on Thursday 15 February and can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/bdzkb2sc>

Staff needed for Elections in 2024

SCDC provides electoral services for the district. This includes the general election, which will take place in the next 12 months. On 2nd May the election of the Police & Crime Commissioner takes place at IWM Duxford and SCDC is recruiting staff to assist in the process. Vacancies exist for Presiding Officer, Poll Clerk and Count Assistants (overnight on Thursday or on Friday). The posts are remunerated and no experience is necessary for roles except for the Presiding Officer. The email address to use for more information and/or to apply is:

elections@scamb.gov.uk

Western Park Sports Pavilion, Northstowe

The Western Park Sports Pavilion in Northstowe is now open for bookings.

Email westernpark@elitesportsuk.com

Facebook page: <http://tinyurl.com/5dsc8bnb>

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.

County Council

Responsibilities: Education, Transport, Highways, Heritage, Social care, Libraries, Trading standards, - Waste management, Maintaining their estate.

Some of these services are shared between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council but any concerns should be directed to the county council.

District Council

Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning.

Parish/ Town Council

Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Open spaces, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters.

Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)

'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.'

Partnership between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, University of Cambridge.

The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor

'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.'

What our mayor does – Business support, skills, housing, transport, environment, international, digital connectivity, resilience, research, and strategy. New homes.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge and Peterborough

To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

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.

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