

LONGSTANTON WARD DISTRICT COUNCELLOR REPORT JUNE 2025

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL (9TH JUNE 2025)

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK PARISH COUNCIL (9TH JUNE 2025)

NORTHSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL (24TH JUNE 2025)

CLLR NATALIE WARREN-GREEN

South Cambridgeshire District Council Annual Meeting

The SCDC Annual Meeting was held on 22 May 2025. At this meeting the following appointments were agreed:

- Appointment of the Chair and vice-Chair
- Appointment of the Leader and Deputy Leader
- Appointments to the Cabinet
- Allocation of seats on Committees and appointment of Committee Chairs
- Appointments to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Appointments to other bodies including the Greater Cambridge Partnership

Of interest to Longstanton Ward, my personal cabinet position was expanded to Lead Cabinet member for 'Environment' whereas last year it was focused on 'Environmental Services and Licensing' only. Our Lead Cabinet Member for Environment is now solely Deputy Leader and will be focusing more time on the upcoming considerations for unifications of councils.

For more information see:

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=410&MIId=10037&Ver=4>

Energy boost for hundreds of South Cambridgeshire Council homes

More than 600 Council homes in South Cambridgeshire are set to benefit from major energy efficiency upgrades helping to cut tenants' energy bills.

The project is part of a wider investment programme of around £19 million being delivered by South Cambridgeshire District Council in partnership with Mears.

Almost half of the funding is from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero under the Government's national Warm Homes Plan. A total of £8,280,376 is being provided for South Cambridgeshire under the latest wave of the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund scheme. SCDC will contribute £10 million from its Housing Revenue Account – consisting of Council house rents – to the improvements too.

A total of 610 properties will be upgraded with more than 2,300 individual energy efficiency measures. These include:

- Cavity Wall Insulation: 576 homes
- Loft Insulation: 397 homes
- Air Source Heat Pumps: 356 homes
- Solar PV Panels: 388 homes
- Ventilation Improvements: 596 homes
- External Wall Insulation: 14 homes

The upgrades aim to bring every home involved in the programme up to at least an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) rating of C helping tenants reduce their energy usage and lower their bills by over £200 a year.

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

SCDC's popular Zero Carbon Communities Grant is now open for applications, closing on Tuesday 1st July 2025.

Parish councils and voluntary/community organisations are invited to apply for grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 for projects that

- a) reduce carbon emissions e.g. from a community building, or
- b) Foster greater community engagement on climate issues and encourage sustainable behaviour change.

For full eligibility criteria and information, please consult the guidance documents on www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant or email zcc@scambs.gov.uk

Allotment Improvement Grant is now open for applications

This grant funding can provide up to £10,000 to support projects that enhance the productivity, sustainability, and social value of allotment spaces.

Key priorities include:

- improving water access through reliable connections and rainwater harvesting
- implementing pest control measures, such as fencing
- upgrading facilities such as waterless toilets
- delivering measurable social benefits, such as promoting mental well-being, outdoor activity and community engagement.

Other allotment improvements will also be considered, ensuring that allotments remain thriving, inclusive spaces for all.

For more information, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-action/allotment-improvement-grant

District Council helps residents secure millions of pounds in benefits not being claimed

South Cambridgeshire District Council has helped residents on lower incomes secure up to £3.6 million in benefits they're entitled to – but weren't claiming.

The Council's innovative Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) software identifies households likely to be eligible for benefits but not claiming them. They are then sent a letter or text encouraging them to apply – with follow-up phone calls also made.

A report to be discussed at the upcoming [Scrutiny and Overview Committee](#) outlines how hundreds of South Cambridgeshire residents are now getting extra money as a direct result of the Council's support and advice.

For example, the Council has helped over 110 households who were eligible for Pension Credit but weren't claiming it. Pension Credit is a benefit for people over State Pension age (currently 66) with low incomes. It provides extra money for living costs and can lead to other support. If they remain

eligible for the rest of their lives, these households will receive up to £3.2 million in Pension Credit between them.

Households that applied for Pension Credit before last Christmas were also eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment following a change in eligibility criteria last year. This is a payment of either £200 or £300, depending on a person's age. The projected extra income this Winter Fuel Payment will bring new claimants across South Cambridgeshire, as long as they remain eligible for it, is just over £229,000.

In addition, the programme has been used to promote the availability of the Household Support Fund. This is a one-off hardship payment of £110 administered by Cambridgeshire County Council. Just under 250 South Cambridgeshire households went on to claim it during the past 12 months – with a total claim value of £26,400.

The Council also identified nearly 70 households that only just missed out on being eligible for Pension Credit – and therefore the Winter Fuel Payment. They were all contacted and offered a free electric blanket and financial advice through 'Income Maximisation' appointments with Council officers. These appointments identified unclaimed benefits – that could be worth a total of more than £500,000 shared between just five households, as long as they remain eligible. Two of those claims have already been approved.

The next areas of focus for the Council's Data Team – using the LIFT software – will include encouraging more eligible residents to claim grants to retrofit their home with energy efficiency measures. There will also be a campaign to raise awareness of Cambridge Water's 'Assure Tariff' – which offers discounts on water bills for those eligible.

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Residents feature on council bin lorries to give recycling advice

A new campaign featuring photos of residents and staff on the side of bin lorries showcases best practice for recycling and preventing waste.

The 'Let's Waste Less' campaign launched by Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS) aims to shine a light on good recycling habits including rinsing out tins or not putting non-recyclable items like polystyrene into recycling bins.

Nearly a dozen volunteers from Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire took part, attending photo-shoots and sharing the actions they take which help to reduce waste or aid recycling. As part of the campaign volunteers have been featured on the side of nine new bin lorries to take their messages all around Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

Recent research* on climate action shows that people usually underestimate how many other people care about environmental issues, and this affects how much action they are willing to take.

GCSWS staff also volunteered to help the campaign, with bin lorry driver Lee and loader Hayley giving tips on making space for recycling by flattening cardboard and remembering to recycle aerosol cans. Aerosol cans are often missed out of recycling collections but as they are made from

aluminium there is a big environmental benefit to recycling them – it takes 95% less energy to make them into new products than using new material.

Some residents taking part in the campaign are Recycling Champions. These are volunteers who help communicate about recycling and reducing waste in their communities, for example by speaking to people at events.

Volunteer Recycling Champion Ida said: “I do what I can to help because I think recycling is important. I really hope this campaign will have an impact and lead to better recycling.”

GCSWS is inviting all residents to get involved with the campaign to further highlight the role of collective action, with a chance to win a prize.

Tell us what you do to waste less or make a pledge to take further action at www.scambs.gov.uk/letswasteless and you’ll be entered into a prize draw to win one of three £50 vouchers for a supermarket, Cambridge Junction or Cambridge Corn Exchange. I’d like to say a big thank you to all of the volunteers who took part, and to everyone who is doing their bit to waste less!”

Reminder: NHS national vaccination booking system open for eligible people

On 25 March, the NHS national booking system opened for 7.5 million eligible people to book in their COVID-19 vaccination. Those eligible for this year’s spring Covid-19 vaccine include adults aged 75 years and over, residents in care homes for older adults, and people with a weakened immune system who are at a greater risk from severe illness.

Please visit www.england.nhs.uk/2025/03/nhs-invites-millions-to-book-life-saving-covid-19-jab/ for more information.

Our Member of Parliament

Ian.Sollom.MP@parliament.uk Ian is active across the constituency, and continues to hold regular surgeries which we will keep you informed of for residents. His office staff answer emails as soon as practically possible. He welcomes correspondence from residents requiring his assistance.

COUNCILS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND 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