

# DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

## LONGSTANTON WARD

COVERING LONGSTANTON, NORTHSTOWE, OAKINGTON & WESTWICK

SEPTEMBER 2021

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

LOCAL PLAN – COUNCIL UPDATE

A list of potential development sites, chosen to minimise carbon emissions and set Greater Cambridge on a clear path to a net zero carbon future, has been published today for the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan. The proposals now go forward to be scrutinised by councillors, along with a clear warning to central government that delivery of the proposals will depend on increasing the area's future water supply.

The new Local Plan, which will set out where new homes and jobs would be developed to 2041 and beyond, aims to minimise carbon emissions and maximise biodiversity and green space improvements, social inclusion and creating great places to live and work. As a result, sites have been chosen which will be close to high quality public transport and within walking and cycling distance of local destinations and services, to minimise future car use. Out of over 690 sites put forward by developers and landowners, and another 200 considered by planners, only 19 new sites are proposed to be taken forward into the new Plan. All sites were tested against a range of criteria, including flood risk, transport, biodiversity, heritage impacts and other important factors.

The proposed sites are available to view on the Local Plan webpage. Most new sites have been suggested in and around Cambridge itself, because of the smaller carbon footprint they generate, with only 4% of homes on proposed new sites being in rural areas. Proposals in and around the city include the major brownfield sites at Northeast Cambridge and Cambridge Airport, which are proposed for new low-carbon neighbourhoods. An extension to the biomedical campus around Addenbrooke's hospital is one of only 4 sites which are proposed to be released from the Green Belt. The plan will also continue to see homes built in locations such as Northstowe and Waterbeach that are already under way, as well as at Cambourne.

The sites are published as part of the draft First Proposals for the new Plan, made public ahead of decision-making by Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councillors through their respective committee processes. Once Councillors have reviewed and commented on the proposed sites, the list will be finalised for public consultation. This consultation is due to start at the beginning of November.

Along with the possible locations for development, the proposals also include suggested new green space and wildlife projects, initial policy recommendations for low-carbon building and water conservation, and proposals for affordable housing that developers should provide in the future.

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## LOCAL PLAN – LONGSTANTON

The plan has identified one site in Longstanton for potential future development. The site is on the triangle of land between the Recreation Ground and Hatton Park Road.

Development of this site could lead to a portion of this land being given to Longstanton Parish Council, which would be used to build a new community building to replace the village institute and provide more community facilities for the village. The remainder of the land could be used for 40-50 houses, and we have suggested to planning officers that older people's or sheltered housing could be accommodated here.

The owner of this site also owns land on Home Farm. The final phase of this development was not completed, which included an additional 100 homes. The planning application for this has now lapsed. Additional work on landscaping, a noise reduction bund along the bypass and a community orchard were also planned but not delivered. If the proposed site next to the recreation ground was developed (which is not at this stage confirmed) the landowner would also wish to submit plans for this final phase of the Home Farm development to be completed. This site is within the village framework so is not included in this Local Plan.

We will be discussing these proposals with the Parish Council, and we would welcome the views of residents through the Local Plan consultation which will begin soon. We will share details of how to share your views via the consultation as soon as we have these. We will seek to represent the views of the village in our response to the consultation.

No further sites proposed in the original call for sites, including the site off School or the sites in the Longstanton Conservation area, have been selected to go forward into the Local Plan.

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## LOCAL PLAN – OAKINGTON

We are incredibly disappointed that a site in Oakington has been selected for inclusion in the next Local Plan, which decides where future development should happen in our area.

The development of 20 houses is on land owned by the County Council, off Water Lane, just below the busway. This land is currently part of the Green Belt.

We will be strongly objecting to the inclusion of this site as we do not think it is appropriate for a small village, which is already feeling the huge impact of Northstowe on its edge, to have these houses added on this land. We acknowledge the need for housing, especially affordable housing, but Northstowe is helping to meet this need.

Water Lane is already under tremendous pressure from traffic and this development will only add to this. The addition of these houses on this site also adds to the risk of flooding. The current field acts as a buffer for the village to the busway and separation between Oakington and Westwick - more houses will remove this.

We have not been briefed on the rationale behind this decision, but we will be inviting council and planning representatives to explain this decision to the village, ideally in a public meeting, to give the community plenty of opportunity to ask questions and give their views.

A consultation phase for this plan will begin shortly and we will ask residents who feel strongly to submit their comments. We will share details of the consultation as soon as we have these. All comments will allow us to challenge Greater Cambridge Planning's decision and push for this site to be removed from the future Local Plan.

As you will see from the press release only a small number of villages have had any of their proposed sites chosen for development. We are extremely frustrated that Oakington is one of the few villages that has and will campaign against this decision.

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#### LOCAL PLAN – NORTHSTOWE

There has been some incorrect information shared in social media that stated that extra houses are being proposed for Northstowe as part of the new Local Plan. This is not the case. There is a proposal to speed up delivery of much needed new homes, particularly affordable housing, during the period of this Local Plan but not to increase overall numbers of homes in Northstowe.

#### NORTHSTOWE CIVIC HUB

A relaunch meeting for the Civic Hub development took place on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Plans for this have been delayed due to Covid and the fact that key stakeholders, in particular the CCG, have had to focus on the pandemic response. This was a virtual meeting facilitated by the organisation Civic. The meeting was well attended with representatives from main stakeholders (the District Council, The County Council, and the Health Services).

Civic has been tasked to produce a 'Blueprint' for the Civic hub and have agreed to do this with a 10-week period. The immediate next steps will involve more 1 to 1 work with key stakeholders. During September there will be three working groups looking at:

- a. The Offering and Experience
- b. Operating and Business Model, and
- c. Governance.

This will be followed by a further workshop in October to present and review the draft Blueprint.

#### NORTHSTOWE WATERPARKS, LEAPS AND PATHS OPENING

Phase 1 Waterpark is now open – there is a bridge over the largest lake, and a wide cycle path through much of the Waterpark. There have been some questions raised on the appearance of the greenways. These are meant to be wilded rather than manicured lawns. Wildflowers can take up to 2 years to establish and require impoverished soil. A reminder that the waterpark for open water swimming, and canoeing/kayaking is Phase 2.

- LEAP – on the other side of Greenway is now open

One of the two paths are now open leading to the Water parks:

- Linden – at the end of Heron Road by the Greenway
- Bovis – at the end of Britannia Road – this path needs to be completed; we will follow up with L&Q

The paths will be a good cycle route to Northstowe Secondary College and Martin Bacon Academy, avoiding some Stirling Road construction traffic. Please do encourage your children to cycle down these paths, it is a safe alternative and gorgeous views.

#### NORTHSTOWE RUNNING FESTIVAL

The inaugural Northstowe Running Festival took place on Sunday in the blazing heat and attracted over 300 runners, families, and residents from Northstowe and beyond. We were very pleased to be invited to ribbon cut the event and congratulate Marcin Lis and his group of volunteers who made this event happen and run so smoothly. The event was enjoyed by all, and proceeds from Northstowe 5K Fun Run and Family Mile is donated to will go to four local schools – Pathfinder Primary, Northstowe Secondary College, Martin Bacon Academy and Hatton Park Primary.

#### DISTRICT AND COUNTY WIDE NEWS

##### MORE FREE TREES

An offer of free trees to South Cambridgeshire’s villages is being doubled – in line with the District Council’s strategy to [Double Nature](#).

Last year (2020) every parish council in the district was offered three free trees to encourage more planting. This year, parishes are being invited to apply for six free trees. With trees absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, they play a key role in helping to combat climate change.

A total of 54 parish councils took up the offer of three free trees last year as part of South Cambridgeshire District Council’s efforts to increase tree canopy cover. This year, they will be offered a choice of six native trees which can be either pot grown or bare rooted. The Council is currently procuring a supplier and that supplier will then deliver trees direct to parish councils.

Parish councils can now [apply for a voucher](#) for their six free trees at and the deadline to apply for them is Thursday 30 September 2021.

##### AFGHANISTAN REFUGEES

SCDC Housing staff have been working on plans to resettle three Afghan families, provided a home and essential support in response to the international crisis. South Cambridgeshire District Council’s five-year (2020-2025) Business Plan commits to working with national, regional, and local partners to

support the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. Council owned homes are not being used to house these three families and it will not have an impact on the waiting time for local families who are already on the Council's housing waiting list.

#### CAMBRIDGE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT RELOCATION PHASE 2 CONSULTATION

Anglian Water commenced their second public consultation on the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation proposal on 23 June 2021 and invited comments up to the 18 August 2021.

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning provided a response on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

[View our response here \[PDF\].](#)

Further information on the proposals including the Phase 2 consultation documentation and next stages in the Development Consent Order (DCO) process can be found on the [CWWTPR website](#).

#### WATERBEACH NEW TOWN NAMED

A new town known through the planning process as Waterbeach New Town has been formally named Waterbeach – the name of the neighbouring village - after the majority of people opted for it following a 12-week public consultation.

The formal adoption of the name took place at a Cabinet meeting at South Cambridgeshire District Council today (Friday 30 July 2021) after councillors considered a report by the two developers of the new town – Urban & Civic and RLW.

The first phase of the consultation found that just over half (53%) of people who responded to the consultation preferred the name to cover both the new town and existing village. Of those people who preferred one name for both town and village, 76% opted for Waterbeach. The view was further explored and endorsed by workshops with the parish council and local elected county and district councillors, a workshop with the Waterbeach heritage group and local interested parties, and one with younger people: representing the past, present, and future of the communities.

The developers' public consultation included delivering consultation booklets to more than 3,000 homes in Waterbeach and the surrounding villages, online webinars to discuss key issues, and the workshops.

The consultation also showed that 87% of people felt the name of the original village of Waterbeach should be updated to Waterbeach Village, to mark the historic area of the village, and ensure it retained the village identity and culture. Councillors noted this outcome and said they would work with the local parish council if updating the name was something people locally wanted to pursue.

## HIGHWAYS

Next Highways meeting is on Friday 1 October at Oakington Sports Pavilion. Present will be: two County Officers and Parish Chairs/Vice Chairs and Clerks. All backdated and current issues will be discussed and prioritised where possible, a collaborative highways document with the Parishes is in place and we are using this to track issues.

Residents are kindly reminded to report any problems on Highways using [Highways Reporting](#), as it will then be picked up by the LHOs to bring to these meetings. Please note: A pothole must be deeper than 40mm and wider than 75mm in any horizontal direction for the Council to intervene and fix. Further details can be found on the following link: [How long does it take to fix a road fault - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

You can also follow us on Twitter for updates on where we are working:

- [@CambsCC](#) or [@Cambs\\_Traffic](#)

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### GULLY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR 2021

Gully maintenance will be taking place in Q3 for Longstanton, Over and Oakington. All gullies will be included and recorded.

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### LONGSTANTON

#### PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CLOSURE:

WILSON'S ROAD BRIDLEWAY: Concerns were raised by representatives of local equestrians and Longstanton Parish Council in May over the proposed surfacing of this public bridleway. The section in question forms part of Highways England's A14 Non-Motorised User Route Investment, which was approved by Highways & Transport Committee back in January 2021 (previous administration). This change in surfacing is permitted development for Cambridgeshire County Council to undertake as Highway Authority. No public consultation was undertaken, as the status of the bridleway remains unchanged by this new proposed scheme.

Following feedback from the local equestrians, we the new administration agreed to upgrade the surface that was recommended to a new surface used successfully by The Lake District National Park, a World Heritage Site, and further adding a top layer dressed in soil and seeded to suit the environment. The methodology of the new surface is compliant with British Horse Society published guidance.

The new surface will benefit the local community and be truly inclusive for all abilities of walkers, ramblers, cyclists, wheelchair users and pushchairs. This will allow families to enjoy leisurely walks, ride their horses and cycles thus promoting health and wellbeing, as well as being a practical route for journeys to and from the area. It will also be more accessible and improve the connectivity and will join all the planned Non-Motorised Users within the area for a circular route to/from Bar Hill, Longstanton, Northstowe and beyond to Eddington and Cambridge. It will be more attractive to more people,

making it fit for purpose and able to cater for the future anticipated increase in use, considering 10,000 Homes in Northstowe (currently at 1,000), which was planned by the Government.

The funding for this surface upgrade is from Highways England's A14 Non-Motorised Users Route Investment (not local money) and was secured by Cambridgeshire County Council from the A14 upgrade to specifically connect surrounding villages around the A14 and if not used for this purpose it will be lost. So, there is no advantage to any other scheme if this was cancelled.

The proposed current surface was upgraded in line with concerns at the start of June raised by local equestrians. We have proposed a further upgrade of surface that is currently used successfully by The Lake District National Park, a World Heritage Site. The surface will consist of several layers:

- first layer: Geoweb filled with 150mm of clean crushed aggregate
- second layer: fine granite dust 3mm to 0 grading (granite dust is a much finer surface than recycled road planings or granite chippings i.e. stone sized), and
- top dressed in soil and seeded, requiring 4-6 weeks for growth depending on rainfall this will ensure that the top dressing suits the environment. This solution is expected to be low maintenance.

The scheme does not include plans to cause environmental damage. As part of the design process for the scheme an Environmental Checklist was completed and reviewed by the designer's in-house Environmental Management team. This team has assessed the risk and then engaged specialist arboriculture advice and specialist advice from an ecologist. Their advice has been incorporated in the design proposals. The ecologist has checked for the presence of any protected species and there are none and advised measures to protect the existing wildlife. As the resurfacing needs to be over existing mature tree routes the arboriculturist has provided specific advice applied in the design to allow the mature trees to thrive, the design is a 'no dig' solution. The arboriculturist has confirmed that limestone must not be used in construction because it will damage the avenue of mature trees.

As this is the first time this innovative surface has been used in Cambridgeshire, we are keen to engage and work collaboratively and have offered a site inspection after 6 months to all the members of Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum, (which two of the local representatives of equestrians are members of) and Longstanton Parish Council.

Works are due to start on site for on 23 August to 15 October, assuming there are no problems with the weather, this timing also includes the 4-6 weeks required for seeding to grow, depending on the rainfall.

**A14 BAR HILL AND SWAVESEY NON-MOTORISED USERS CROSSING CYCLE BARRIERS:** The staggered barriers at the bottom of all four ramps of the two bridges have been the subject of scrutiny since they have been installed by a wide range of users: mobility scooters, wheelchairs, tandems, cycle trailers and horse riders.

The County Council procured an independent review of these barriers and the risks raised by the original road safety audit conducted by Highways England. With the support of the local divisional

County Councillors there was a clear support for the removal of all barriers, this was agreed by the members of the Highways & Transport Committee on 27 July.

All four barriers will be removed from the approach ramps of both bridges, including the northern approach to the Swavesey bridge. Here pedestrian guardrail will be installed along the end of the local access road NMU across the end of the ramp to minimise the risk of cyclists overshooting and entering the carriageway. At the time of writing this report the barriers at A1307 end had been removed.

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## LHI BIDS FOR NEXT YEAR

The Highways & Transport Committee have now opened the new application window for Local Highway Improvement schemes to be delivered in 2022/23, details are as follows.

- Application window opened: Monday 30 June 2021
- Application window closes: **Thursday 30 September 2021 – Now extended**
- Feasibility studies undertaken: August to October 2021
- Panel meetings: December—January 2021/22
- Report to committee including prioritised list for approval: March 2022.

This will mean the winter period can be used to begin designing schemes for delivery from 1 April 2022, making use of the summer weather for delivery rather than design, although formal approval will not yet have been given.

Further details here: [Local Highway Improvement funding - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

## NORTHSTOWE PHASE 3A AND PHASE 3B

Northstowe Phase 3A and Phase 3B Section 106 Agreement Draft Head of Terms report, that will be presented at the Cambridgeshire County Council Environment and Green Investment Committee Thursday 16 September from 10am to 1pm.

Cllr Lorna Dupre, Chair of the committee, will be reading out the following statement from me to reference the flooding mitigation that was discussed at Oakington & Westwick Parish Council meeting on Monday 13 September, to show my support for their concerns.

*"The local Parish councils still have concerns about particular flood and draining issues and we would ask the local lead flood authority to correspond with the local planning authority SCDC to ensure that these matters can be adequately resolved prior of the granting of the planning permission."*

Full report can be accessed on this link, it is item no. 4 on the agenda

[Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

The meeting can be viewed live and accessed thereafter on CCC's YouTube (unless any technical issues were experienced on the day) [Cambridgeshire County Council - YouTube](#)

You'll have seen the tables in the report showing the draft heads of terms for Phase 3A and Phase 3B as follows.

### **Phase 3A**

- Two primary schools
- Expansion at Northstowe Academy
- SEN contribution
- Post-16 contribution
- Land for early years provision
- Library payment
- Heritage annexe payment
- Community development payments

### **Phase 3B**

- One primary school
- Expansion at Northstowe Academy
- SEN contribution
- Post-16 contribution
- Library payment

For transport, the applicant has agreed contributions to the busway, greenway, multi-modal local interventions, and monitoring. Work is still being done on the Southern Access Road East and junction mitigation schemes.

## **DISTRICT AND COUNTY WIDE NEWS**

### **JOINT ADMINISTRATION UPDATES:**

The new County Council Joint Administration has been taking stock of the council's financial position and ways of working, at a time of continuing increasing financial and demographic pressures as well as new variables around Covid legacy and recovery. In other words, we are examining how to go forward with less income and a continuing need to 'make savings' while dealing with inflation and the economic costs of Covid to the council.

Our population is getting older and/or has increasingly complex health needs which need to be understood and our highways network is in 'managed decline'. Our job as a council is to provide the best possible services for our residents. The next round of committee meetings is in September, and all meetings are live-streamed and accessible on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CambsCountyCouncil/videos>.

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### **DECENTRALISATION OF SERVICES**

One of the new Joint Administration's major commitments is to decentralise council services, making decisions closer to communities. This might include:

- Joint decision making—the County Council working closely with the District or City Council, Town or Parish Councils, local voluntary, community and faith groups, and communities to identify priorities and agree how best to deliver to them.
- Service relocation—County Council services physically located within the heart of communities where there is an evidenced need, with opportunities for co-location between council departments and with partner agencies.
- Delegation of funding, service delivery, and/or decision making—a community or local organisation being given formal delegation to deliver a service or to make decisions relating to county council services.

A progress report will be made to the December meeting of the Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee. The Council aims to support and enable partners to deliver services or make joint decisions, rather than adding pressure and cost to those organisations. This will be an important principle to establish before firm decisions can be made and reflects some of the early feedback received from District and City Councils.

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#### STAFFING AT CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE:** The search is on for a new Chief Executive for Cambridgeshire County Council to succeed the present postholder Gillian Beasley, who told councillors of her intentions before May's election. Gillian is currently Chief Executive of both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, but both councils have agreed that this joint arrangement should cease. Cambridgeshire will therefore have its own Chief Executive dedicated entirely to the county.

**OTHER POSTHOLDERS:** Meanwhile Sue Procter joins Cambridgeshire County Council as Director of Highways & Transport. Sue is currently at Kirklees Council, and will take up her new role from 1 November.

#### COVID-19 UPDATES

**CASES:** At the end of August East Cambridgeshire had 305 cases per 100,000 population, a decrease of 16.2 per cent, and lower than the national average.

**VACCINATIONS:** Information about walk-in vaccination clinics is available at [thevaccinators.co.uk](http://thevaccinators.co.uk) Alternatively, appointments can be booked online at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

**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](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting)

**INFORMATION:**

<https://twitter.com/CambsCC>

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

## SUPPORT GRANTS

As part of Cambridgeshire County Council's Covid Local Support Grant, £30,000 has been given to a range of local organisations in South Cambridgeshire to support families over the summer months with food, fuel and other emergency supplies. The educational charity Cambridge Online has received a grant of £15,000 to support 105 families who are financially vulnerable. The money will buy equipment to help refurbish laptops and buy tablets and data packages for online access. They also provide free ongoing support to all families who use the service. The aim of the new scheme is to provide computer devices and internet connections to help South Cambridgeshire families and households gain online access for education, to access services or for social interaction. More information and to apply for the scheme can be found here: [Internet Devices – Cambridge Online](#)

Other grant recipients include Care Network, which was awarded £1,000 for its 'community navigator' and 'help at home' teams, which help people to continue to live independently and Age UK which was awarded £8,000 to support older residents through the community warden scheme, and to help to provide a fruit and veg service for older people.

## ADULTS AND HEALTH

**THANK YOU TO OUR GP SURGERIES:** GP surgeries are under unprecedented pressure with an enormous backlog of patient need, in many cases with medical conditions having worsened through time and Covid-inflicted delay. We would like to say thank you to everyone supporting our GP practices, from nurses and GPs and dispensary staff to receptionists answering incoming calls.

**PLEASE USE '111' - NON-EMERGENCY FIRST PORT OF CALL:** Hospitals are running at full capacity and trying to address unprecedented waiting lists. Ambulances are sometimes not able to transfer people on arrival at A&E due to the number of walk-in patients, some of whom could be treated outside of A&E. Therefore, we are being asked to use the '111' phone service as a first port of call for non-emergency concerns. The 111 service is well-resourced to manage this role. In an emergency, please ring 999.

## EDUCATION

**COVID-19:** With the reopening of schools, the preventative measures have been relaxed (bubbles and face coverings) and we are now required to support schools and early years settings where they reach critical levels considered under the government [contingency framework for education settings](#). The threshold for intervention is if the number of cases (PCR positive) within 10 days among children or staff who have mixed closely: Increases rapidly, 5 cases (2 for special schools and boarding schools) or 10% of the cohort (e.g. in a setting with 20 children this would be 2) or Single hospitalisation or death due to covid-19.

**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.

VOUCHER SCHEMES: We successfully operated our voucher scheme in the summer holiday with two vouchers were sent out to parents of eligible children over the holidays. We have dealt with over 1,500 queries during the summer holiday including signing up new parents for free school meals. We are working with schools and early year setting to follow up unclaimed vouchers and we will be withdrawing unused vouchers on the 24 September. Parents with issues can contact us at [winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). We will be taking proposals to the Children & Young People Committee in September on how we will support families in October half term.

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.

#### COMMUNITY FLOOD ACTION SURVEY

As part of its Community Flood Action Programme, Cambridgeshire County Council is updating its riparian guidance document to make it more useful for those living next to a watercourse.

A riparian owner is anyone who owns a property where there is a watercourse within or adjacent to the boundaries of their property. A watercourse includes a river, stream or ditch. A riparian owner is also responsible for watercourses or culverted watercourses passing through their land.

As this document is aimed at residents and landowners, the Council wishes to seek their views and get a better understanding of their awareness of riparian issues. The Council has therefore prepared a short survey (five questions—link below) for residents and landowners to complete. The Council plans to keep the survey open until Thursday 30 September but this can be extended if necessary.

In addition, the Council would be grateful for any photographs of watercourses that residents may have, to include in the guidance document. If anyone would like to submit photos, please email them to [CFAP@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:CFAP@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and include the name they would like to be credited as.

<https://forms.office.com/r/5HQbNqGtba>

#### FOSTER CARERS

Cambridgeshire County Council needs more foster carers. Fostering means caring for one or more children or young people in your own home when they are unable to live with their family.

Foster carers provide a safe and secure home for children and young people of all ages, and come from a wide range of ages, cultures and backgrounds. Becoming a foster carer normally takes four to six months. The Council offers:

- a generous mileage allowance, a setting-up fee for furniture and equipment, two weeks additional basic maintenance payments for holidays, birthdays allowance, a festivities allowance, and an initial clothing and school uniform allowance.
- round-the-clock 'out of hours' support should you need reassurance.
- a dedicated social worker to provide regular supervision and support.

Foster carers could earn up to £44,720 plus benefits for looking after two children aged eleven or over, subject to experience, training, and assessment.

There are lots of different types of fostering available for the right people and their families. Applicants will need enthusiasm and commitment to support the needs of children and young people in care, as well as a spare bedroom—and be over 21 years of age. The Council urgently needs foster carers for teenagers, sibling groups, and children with disabilities.

There are a lot of myths around fostering, which the Council is keen to dispel.

- [Finances and home](#)
- [Career and work](#)
- Personal circumstances
- [Relationships and lifestyle](#)

More information:

- [Six steps to fostering](#)
- [Siblings and teenagers](#)

Being involved with social services or the police will not automatically rule out an applicant. The Council would just need to discuss this further. For more information

- visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering)
- call 0800 052 0078 or
- text FOSTERING to 60777

#### DOMESTIC ABUSE SAFE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

The County Council has drawn up a Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy as all county councils are required to do by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The three key aims of this strategy are to achieve:

- Earlier identification of, and intervention for, domestic abuse through access to domestic abuse support, local authority housing advice, and social and private landlords.
- A reduction in the number of victims of abuse who are made homeless as a result of domestic abuse.
- Increased housing sustainment options so that people experiencing domestic abuse can remain safely in their home when it is their choice to do so, or do not lose their tenancy status if they relocate.

The Council's Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee is being asked to approve the strategy for submission to Government.

## CARBON FOOTPRINT

THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF WHERE: We live The Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions has produced a new place-based carbon calculator. This looks at a single year in carbon emissions across England, to help us understand where our community's footprint comes from, and how we can reduce it. The latest statistics are for 2018, and are calculated down to LSOA or 'Lower Super Output Area' level. <https://www.carbon.place/>

## AFGHAN RESETTLEMENT

Cambridgeshire County Council is working with partners to help resettle Afghan nationals (and their families) who are at risk because they worked alongside our armed forces and the British Government, or who may be vulnerable for other reasons. So far around 10 to 15 homes have been identified across the county, while the County Council has also offered one of its vacant outdoor education centres as temporary accommodation for Afghans while they wait for suitable accommodation either in Cambridgeshire or elsewhere in the region.

The local authority has met with officers in each of the district and city councils (in their capacity as local housing authorities) to find out how they will be supporting the national programme, so that it can identify ways in which the county council can provide them with wraparound support – such as childcare placements, language classes or support to transfer qualifications to British standards. Each district and the city council have confirmed that they will be accepting and/or supporting Afghan nationals as part of the national Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), and the broader Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) for other vulnerable Afghans.

A consistent message from all of the discussions has been the need to continue to work collaboratively, while a commitment has been made to establish a county-wide taskforce to share good practice and unblock challenges. In addition, the County Council is also identifying a senior officer to work with district and city councils to help speed up decision-making and problem-solving, while it will also be working with a wide range of partners from across the public, voluntary, community and faith sectors to extend the coordination effort.

Support being offered by the County Council includes:

- Developing tailored English-language courses through its adult skills service, Cambridgeshire Skills
- Supporting the national effort to transfer qualifications to British standards, through Cambridgeshire Skills
- Exploring employment and apprenticeship opportunities within the council, and its contracted and commissioned services
- Coordination of donations from the public
- Expanding the locally-led donations schemes, especially for high demand items such as beds, wardrobes and white goods
- Extending existing mechanisms to buy goods or to provide food and other vouchers via the County Coordination Hub

- Supporting Afghan families to access online resources through the provision of computer hardware and data
- Working with our public health teams to offer immunisations/vaccinations to those individuals who might need them
- The offer of broader social opportunities.

The council is aware that many people are keen to offer help and support. It is especially keen to hear from landlords with suitable and available housing (whole and self-contained houses, rather than rooms or shared accommodation), as well as from anyone able to donate good quality large items of furniture, including beds and wardrobes.

Anyone wishing to contribute or to find out more detail is asked to approach the relevant district or city council where the housing located in the first instance. However, the County Council is also offering an information point for anyone that wants further information, to offer accommodation, or to offer other support:

Email: [communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

Telephone: 0345 045 5219

If you have a problem or concern do not worry too much about who can solve it just ask the question to the parish clerk or a councillor and they will point you in the right direction. The organisational structure of Cambridgeshire is complex, but it is important to identify where responsibility lies.

<p><b>County Council</b></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><b>District Council</b></p> <p>Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning.</p>
<p><b>Parish/ Town Council</b></p> <p>Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Open spaces, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters.</p>
<p><b>Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)</b></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><b>The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor</b></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><b>Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge, and Peterborough</b></p> <p>To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.</p>
<p><b>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority</b></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](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](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

Contact details:

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