



# South Cambs District Council

**Annual District Council Report: April 2023**

Oakington & Westwick APM (24.04.23)

Northstowe ATM (26.04.23)

Longstanton APM (TBC – May 23)

**Cllr. Natalie Warren-Green**

**District Councillor for Longstanton Ward**

# Annual Report 2023: Scope

- **SCDC Wide Activity 2022-23**

- 4 Themes: Business; Housing; Environment; Modern & Caring Council
- Responding to current public affairs: Ukraine; Cost of Living

- **My Activity in Longstanton Ward**

1. Public transport for the ward
2. Local planning across the District
3. Loss of Groundwater in Longstanton
4. Environment in Oakington and Westwick
5. Delivery of facilities in Northstowe.

***Note: Case Work not reported due to confidentiality***



# SCDC Wide Activity: 4 Themes

## 1. Business Support

- New policy for street trading **safety**
- Business **Advice** to over 100 businesses
- Feasibility study: Using South Cambs Hall for **Businesses and Start-Ups**
- List of business **premises** for start-ups
- Sector Specific events/webinars **engagement** programme

## 2. Affordable Housing

- Local Plan consultation report – **plotting next steps for the local plan**
- Delivered **53 new affordable homes** (on track for 74 this year)
- New Council House **maintenance** contract
- Empty Houses **strategy**
- Support **liaison meetings** for villages and **community forums** for New Communities
- Asset management plan making council housing **energy efficient – reducing carbon and running costs**
- Insulation measures to **support net-zero targets**



# SCDC Wide Activity: 4 Themes

## 3. Green to Our Core

- Equipment and info kits for **separating recycling** at community events
- Review of impact/ budget for **food waste collection**
- 2 refuse **EVs**
- **Air quality** report accepted by DEFRA
- **Carbon reduction** review, EV Charge points, Trees and Plants, Biodiverse planning, air quality monitoring, waste composition campaigns
- **Fly tipping**: Penalties and education

## 4. Modern & Caring Council

- Targeting staff satisfaction and retention: **hybrid, 4-day week**
- Middle Manager – **skills programme**
- 150 new clients - housing dept **visiting support service**
- £500k **disabled facilities** grant
- Avoiding **homelessness** and supporting homeless
- Working with the **job centre – mentoring/training**
- Understanding **council tenants** survey
- Council House **compliance** safety checks
- New policy for **caravan inspection** – suitable housing provision



# Responding to Current Affairs

## Homes for Ukraine

- One of the local councils with the **highest number of arrivals** and therefore hosts
- **408 hosts** have welcomed **787 guests**: 914 DBS checks have been completed and 405 welfare visits made
- **In our ward**, Longstanton currently (17.04.23) has **11** Ukrainian guests, Oakington & Westwick have **2**, and Northstowe has **3**.
- SCDC is still looking for hosts: [duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk)

## Cost of Living Support

- **Low-cost methods of warmth**: 300 residents given electric blankets, slow cookers
- **Funding**: Housing, council tax discounts, warm hub programme incl. £200k recently
- **Supporting the vulnerable** – information on support available
- **Warm hubs** – becoming wellbeing hubs



# My Activity: Longstanton Ward

## By- Election November 2022

- Handover from **Cllrs Alex Malyon & Sarah Cheung Johnson**
- Support from **Cllr Firouz Thompson (county), Cllr Bill Handley (SCDC)**
- Support from the **Parish Councils and the Town Council**
- Discovery & Action: **matters of concern raised by residents** in the election campaign
- **Case work**: noise; planning; bins; ASB, etc. (confidential)



# My Activity: Longstanton Ward

## 1. Public Transport

### ➤ GCP 'Making Connections' consultation:

- Sustainable Travel Zone
- Processing 24k responses
- **Some key concerns emerging** – Addenbrookes, tradesmen making multiple journeys, potential weekly expense for low income
- **2 representatives from SCDC** on the GCP
- **Final report on the proposals due June 2023**
- **Recommendation will then be made to the County Council as to whether to proceed**



# GCP Making Connections

- New bus routes, additional orbital and express services to key sites across the city, and a huge increase in services for villages and towns across the travel to work area.
- Buses supported by flexible services known as Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) – which you can book that picks you up from near your home, such as the popular Ting service currently being trialled in West Huntingdonshire.
- Longer operating hours from 5am to 1am and more frequent services - 6-8 buses every hour in the city and from market towns, and hourly rural buses.
- Flat fares to make public transport cheap and accessible for all; with passengers paying £1 to travel in the city and £2 in the travel to work area.
- Options for new cycling routes in the city and connections between villages and the wider active travel network, including the 12 Greenways routes.
- Improvements to public spaces to make Cambridge more 'people-centric'.
- All vehicle movements into, out of and within the proposed Sustainable Travel Zone (STZ) would pay a flat daily £5 charge between 7am and 7pm on weekdays.





# My Activity: Longstanton Ward

## 2. Local Planning Across District

- Economic Growth in Greater Cambridge: **New jobs, new homes**
- **Government driven** requiring all planning authorities to produce a local plan
- A 'carrot and stick' approach is adopted; **local authorities that deliver the number of houses the government agrees are needed continue to have control over development planning.** Those that don't, can lose the ability to decide what is built and where.
- SCDC is currently working to the Local Plan we inherited from the previous (Conservative) administration. Discussions are currently being held as to **how the government's growth requirements can be delivered - especially given the potentially serious consequences for water supply in the area** - without leaving us exposed to the 'stick'
- Work on the next Local Plan is ongoing. **The draft plan consultation is due in autumn 2023.**



# My Activity: Longstanton Ward

## 3. Longstanton: Groundwater

- Working with **LEGG, Longstanton Parish Council, SCDC Planning**
- **Latest report** following a CCTV survey is **due to LEGG April/May**
- Hypothesis emerging about **how the issue might be resolved**
- All parties involved are **pleased with the progress** and there will be information to share in the coming months
- Northstowe Town Council are being kept abreast of the process by Longstaton Parish Council



# My Activity: Longstanton Ward

## 4. Oakington & Westwick: Environment

- **Flooding** – mentioned often by residents during my campaign canvassing. Still in the discovery phase of my remit on this. Keen to support but **need to understand more from residents** before I know what support is required. SCDC Planning team are available and willing to support always.
- Work of **EAG** – impressed by the regular briefings and contact – thank you
- **6 Trees planted** by Parish Council supported on the day by SCDC Chair
- **Greenway cycle path Oakington through Westwick to Cottenham** – fully support the PC comments and added safety comments to the consultation working with Cllr Firouz Thompson



# My Activity: Longstanton Ward

## 5. Northstowe: Facilities

- Working with the **Town Council and Delivery Group** including **SCDC Communities Team**
- **Aware that shops and a doctors surgery are top of the agenda** for residents. **These are planned for and will come.**
- **In the meantime, evidence of progress** are now seen in the form of, for example:
  - Interim / Permanent Community Centre
  - Sports Pavillion
  - Market
  - Warm Hub
  - Community networking groups
  - Running festivals
- **Keep updated – come to the Northstowe Forum...**





# South Cambs District Council

**Cllr. Natalie Warren-Green**

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