

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT- LONGSTANTON WARD

COVERING LONGSTANTON, OAKINGTON & WESTWICK & NORTHSTOWE

AUGUST 2021

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

NORTHSTOWE PHASE 1 – ENTERPRISE ZONE & LOCAL CENTRE

We want to hear from local businesses to help shape plans for the Employment Zone at Northstowe. You can currently complete an online survey which help us understand local business needs and influence the masterplan for the area. We are really pleased that residents and local businesses are being asked to get involved and help us create a thriving business environment to ensure Northstowe's competitive advantage, sustainable growth, and prosperous future.

This survey will take just a few minutes to complete.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMg8Khe4FRW_ejDOqv4xg2bsPyXgX6HfaM6oNK3Ulgrk_hB-Q/viewform

AR Urbanism have held two workshops for residents and one workshop for the business community to seek initial views from the attendees over what they wanted to see in the enterprise zone and local centre. There were also over two hundred responses to the online survey asking for residents' views.

AR Urbanism will use this information, together with factual background information (for example the s106 agreements) and will produce a masterplan for this area of Northstowe.

There will be further workshops in the Autumn as a way of 'sense - checking' the progress and we will update on this when arrangements are confirmed.

NORTHSTOWE CIVIC HUB

A relaunch meeting for the Civic Hub development took place on 30th 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.

UPDATE FROM THE WILLINGHAM GPs SURGERY

The GP practice had reported that there was a delay in registering new patients. They have confirmed that this is a number of experienced receptionists at the surgery retiring at the same time and is a lack of administrative skills while they train up new staff. There has also been an increase in the number of residents coming forward to register as Covid restrictions were lifted. Nationally GPs are experiencing unprecedented demand for appointments at present and they do not believe this is related to Northstowe. They have confirmed that they have increased the number of both GPs and Nurses and do have sufficient capacity.

NORTHSTOWE PLANNING UPDATES

The new single storey pavilion building plans have been submitted for planning permission. They detail the access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale for this construction. The pavilion will have changing facilities for 3 teams and 3 referees as well as a club room, kitchen, and a full changing places toilet – the first for our wider area for those people who need a fully accessible toilet. To view the plans please go to the South Cambs Planning website link below and enter the reference number: 21/03350/REM.

Comments will close for this 28th August 2021 and the application will go to full planning committee, which any member of the public can attend and give their views.

<https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online.../>

Northstowe Phase 2 – Town centre parameter plans, these have been resubmitted following an issue with building heights and is now compliant.

Linden LAPS – a long while ago, Linden were given permission to work on 2 Sunday's outside of conditions and in return were to remove the fencing around the LAPs on their plots and put in the landscaping. This is still outstanding despite chasing from planning, this has been chased again.

Keepmoat Phase 2 – we were pleased to see the developers took on board our request to reduce the building height of houses that face the Rampton Drift play area, so they are now fully compliant with the Design Code for Phase 2. The deadline for comments on this application has now passed. Thanks to Northstowe Town Council for the comments they submitted. Our comments on this application can be viewed via the planning portal.

HIGHWAYS

Next Highways meeting is planned in September, dates is due to be scheduled. Present will be: Two Local Highway Officers (LHO) 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](#)

B1050 BAR HILL TO NORTHSTOWE

Several potholes had been marked up between the first stretch of B1050 approaching from the Bar Hill junction and they have now been repaired.

The section where the new junction road finishes and the existing B1050 meet has been problematic for some time and the maintenance team after several attempts of patching up that section have been unsuccessful to find a solution. We do ask residents to ensure they slow down upon approach of this part of the road as a few cars have damaged their tyres. We are looking at ways of troubleshooting this problem and are continuing to push for the new SARW to be opened.

LONGSTANTON

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 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 and will go on for eight weeks, 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.

COMMUNITY GRANTS TO SUPPORT LOCAL NATURE-BASED PROJECTS

Natural Cambridgeshire vision is that by doubling the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural green space, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will become an outstanding environment where nature and people thrive, and businesses prosper.

Did you know that Cambridgeshire currently has one of the smallest areas of land managed for nature in the country, relative to size? We want to double the amount of land in the county that's managed for nature from 8% to 16%, which is the national average.

Click on link below how to get involved and apply for this grant between £250-£1,000.

[Natural Cambridgeshire | Community grants to support local nature-based projects](#)

Closing date for applications: **31 August 2021**

Successful applications notified by: **1 October 2021**

Projects must be completed by: **31 January 2022**

It states in the applications that applicants can be a **parish or town council**, a neighbourhood group, a sports club or a youth group, a faith group, and everything else in between.

I have also shared this on local Facebook groups to reach our community groups.

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](#)

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND COUNTY COMMITTEES

CYCLE PATHS: One of my priorities for Northstowe is to plan a campaign for reclaiming our cycle paths, I know this has been an ongoing issue within the community for sometime. As roads and cycle paths will not be adopted by the County Council until 2026, we need to ensure that between Phase 1 and 2 we have all paths connected. I will be looking at safe cycling routes for the community and the pupils cycling to and from school. Over the last month I have met with NSC, Urban Splash and Think Communities to bring partners together.

At Northstowe Town Council meeting in July, it was agreed that we will write to the Cambridgeshire County Council Highways team to request that the paths that connect both Longstanton Park and Ride to the Lakes and to Phase 1 be brought forward, prioritising the Lakes.

COMMUNITY GYM AND CAFÉ: NSC are looking to open the community gym and café in 2022. [A survey](#) was launched but has re-opened to get further feedback from the community.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY WIDE NEWS

NEW GROWTH FUND FOR GROWING BUSINESSES

A new grant scheme has launched for South Cambridgeshire based micro and small to medium sized businesses looking to scale and grow.

The Growth Fund scheme, using funding provided by Government, is designed to support businesses' growth and expansion plans in the district. Eligible applicants for the scheme must be South Cambridgeshire based start-ups who are looking to scale and grow quickly, or they can be established South Cambridgeshire based companies who can clearly demonstrate ambitious growth plans in the District. Businesses in any sectors can apply, including, sole traders and partnerships. One-off grants of between £1,000 and £50,000 may be awarded to successful applicants.

Cllr Peter McDonald, Lead Cabinet Member for Business said: "As Government Coronavirus restrictions ease, the Council is keen to support businesses from all sectors that may have put their growth ambitions on hold during the pandemic and help businesses recover and thrive in the District.

"The Growth Fund scheme is aimed at supporting local micro and SME businesses, with plans to expand. The scheme is open to businesses from all sectors affected by local and national restrictions. In particular, we will be prioritising those who were ineligible for the rate paying schemes such as the Local Restrictions Support Grant and Restart Grant. We also really want to encourage businesses with strong green credentials to apply, to kickstart a green pandemic recovery in South Cambridgeshire."

All grants require an online application form to be completed. Full details and eligibility criteria on the Growth Fund Scheme, along with information about how to apply, can be found on our website: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/business-support-and-advice/growth-fund-grant-scheme/>. A handy 'How to Apply' guide is also available on the website.

The scheme will end when all funds have been allocated.

NEW VISIT SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE WEBSITE LAUNCH

SCDC are launching a new stand-alone website promoting tourism across South Cambridgeshire. Visit South Cambs will support the local economy by showcasing the area as a place to visit for traditional tourism as well as the increasing number of staycations. It will highlight the many attractions and open spaces we have to offer, along with great places to eat, drink and stay.

The team would love to hear about any events taking place in South Cambridgeshire from September 2021 onwards, and to hear from independent retailers and services operating in the tourist sector, such as galleries, gift shops, artisanal bakeries and businesses offering beauty treatments, spa facilities and personal care.

Residents and businesses can sign up to promote their business or event for free by following this link https://www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk/?utm_source=sendinblue&utm_campaign=Business_newsletter_-_TEMPLATE_FOR_AUGUST_Copy_for_test_list&utm_medium=email

OTHER SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL BUSINESS

SCDC has a dedicated Business Support and Development Team dedicated to supporting local business, the service is free to use, and more details can be found on the website, including a link to sign up to their regular business newsletter.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/>

How to Tender for Council Contracts Webinar

Local authorities outsource many goods and services, from building services to catering, cleaning to IT. Would you like to know how they decide on suppliers, and how local businesses, especially smaller ones, can win bids for these contracts?

Sean Missin, Procurement Officer at South Cambridgeshire District Council, is running a free, practical, and interactive webinar on Tuesday 28 September, 2pm to 3pm, which will explain the process of successfully applying for local government contracts.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-tender-for-council-contracts-tickets-165399920615?utm_source=sendinblue&utm_campaign=Business_newsletter_-_TEMPLATE_FOR_AUGUST_Copy_for_test_list&utm_medium=email

Growing your business online Webinar

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Growth Hub is running a series of online training sessions including how to use social media platforms to increase your online presence and grow your business. They are also running "Getting Cambridgeshire back to work", a series of employer focused webinars starting in August through September. These cover topics including supporting employees after furlough, apprenticeships and how to access government funding for your businesses.

[CPCA Home Page | EU Transition 2021 - CPCA Growth Hub](#)

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.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S MULTI-MILLION GOVERNMENT FUNDING GAP FOR SOCIAL CARE: Adult social care is overwhelmingly the biggest financial obligation of the County Council, with need steadily increasing as our population ages and requires more complex care.

"Cambridgeshire's Adult Social Care budget is dependent on over £25m in government grant funding that is not confirmed to be continuing in the long-term, which is nearly 10% of our budget. We are also

seeing costs increase each year as demand for our services rises, with around £50m of additional funding needed over the next five years.

Despite being some of the fastest growing local authorities, shire counties have consistently received less funding from government than other types of council. In 2021/22 shire counties received between a third and a half less funding than other councils.”

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/local-social-care-champions-support-national-plea-for-more-funding>

HEALTHY WEIGHT: The Adults & Health Committee has also made the decision to renew its programme of awareness about healthy weight. In 2018/19 62.8 per cent of people nationally were overweight or obese. The cost of obesity to the NHS each year is £5.1 billion, rising to £27 billion if costs to the wider economy are included. The cost of malnutrition in England was estimated to be £19.6 billion per year in 2011/12, more than 15 per cent of the total public expenditure on health and social care. About half is expenditure is related to older people, and the other half to younger adults and children.

ENVIRONMENT

COUNTY COUNCIL, ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: All motions were passed. Of note were the St Ives Park & Ride renewable energy scheme and the 6-month strategy review.

ST IVES PARK & RIDE RENEWABLE ENERGY SCHEME: The electricity network in Cambridgeshire is at full capacity an example was given whereby a renewable energy scheme which cost £600,000 would be charged £2 million to join the grid. The economics of this are not viable. The St Ives scheme puts renewable energy onto the Park & Ride site and is a ‘demonstration’ scheme for a small-scale renewable project where energy is sold directly to consumers thereby avoiding the connection fee. This scheme qualified for an EU grant of nearly £2million and is intended to provide a model for other councils and businesses.

CLIMATE STRATEGY: The County Council’s Environment & Green Investment Committee has agreed to review the Council’s climate and environment strategies by December 2021 with a view to bringing forward its net-zero target towards 2030. The Committee will develop a Route map to Net-Zero and Doubling Nature Programme by March 2022.

SETTLED STATUS

The deadline for EU citizens to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme has now passed. However, the process is difficult, many long-term residents have not realised they need to apply (they were promised in 2016 that their right to remain would be automatic), and there are a large number of residents who have therefore not completed—or even begun—their applications and who are therefore at risk of losing homes, jobs, and basic rights such as healthcare. I have been working with another councillor on a motion to the Full Council meeting on 20 July to ensure the Council continues to support these

COVID-19 UPDATES

CASES as at 13 August: rates across Cambridgeshire have risen sharply and they are now approaching levels seen in the winter peak. At the time of writing, they are 305.4 cases per 100,000 population, which is a 33% increase on the same time last week and means the county is currently placed 74th nationally among Upper Tier Local Authorities with the highest the number of cases across all ages.

These rates are higher than the national average which is 299.2 cases per 100,000 population, and the regional average which is 261.4 per 100,000. South Cambs sits at 298.9 per 100,000, an increase of 34% on last week

Hospital admissions have continued to increase. There are currently 84 patients in hospitals across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a result of Covid and there have been 11 deaths within 28 days of a positive Covid test In Cambridgeshire.

Therefore, we need to get as many people as possible double vaccinated against Covid-19, as evidence shows that the vaccine is highly effective at breaking the link between infections and serious illness, driving down hospitalisations and deaths.

VACCINATIONS: In parts of Cambridgeshire - Cambridge in particular - the numbers who have been vaccinated are lower than we would like, despite extensive work with our communities. Three quarters of people nationally have now had both doses, whereas in Cambridgeshire, 79.5 per cent of eligible people have had one dose and 67.4 per cent have had both. In Cambridge it is much lower, with 63.8 per cent having first dose and 48 per cent having had both doses.

This week the Government also announced that 16 and 17-year-olds can now be vaccinated, and we are urging people in these age groups to take up the offer. People can also visit the many walk-ins and pop-up clinics around the county, with more dates and locations available every week. Up-to-date details can be found at www.thevaccinators.co.uk

In other news, the rules around self-isolation for close contacts are due to change from Monday (16 August). From this date, instead of self-isolating, those who are double jabbed and under 18s identified as close contacts of positive Covid-19 cases are advised to get a free PCR test as soon as possible. This applies to people who have received their final dose of the vaccine at least 14 days prior to contact with a positive case.

Those not fully vaccinated will still need to isolate if they are contacts, and everyone will still have to isolate if they test positive, to protect themselves and others, irrespective of their vaccination status or age in order to break onwards chains of transmission.

As double jabbed people identified as close contacts are still at risk of being infected, people are advised to consider other precautions such as wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces, and limiting contact with other people, especially with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable. They will not be required to self-isolate while they wait for the results of the PCR test.

TESTING: Mobile rapid testing vehicles continue to visit sites across the county, offering on-the-spot tests as well as kits to take away and complete at home.

More information about accessing rapid testing can be found online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

INFORMATION: Do check the Council's public health information messages about COVID which are updated regularly.

<https://twitter.com/CambsCC>

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

EDUCATION

SUMMER HOLIDAYS- Holiday Activities and Food Programme: The programme is aimed at providing healthy food and enriching activities for primary and secondary school aged children who are eligible for benefit related free school meals. During the Summer holidays, eligible children will be able to access four, four-hour sessions for four weeks of the holiday, at no cost. The sessions will include a healthy meal and a variety of exciting activities and sports. Further details can be found, to either check if your child is eligible and book your place, visit [Holiday Activities and Food Programme](#). We understand that there is still space available on this programme.

SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS: The County Council's Children & Young People Committee and The Strategy & Resources Committee both agreed to provide supermarket vouchers over the summer holidays for families entitled to free school meals. The scheme over the summer holidays is expected to cost around £1.61m, rising to £1.91m including free summer holiday scheme places for 4 weeks. The Government has allocated £1.37m to Cambridgeshire for the summer through the Covid Local Support Grant, meaning the council will provide a further £537k to deliver on its summer support plans.

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 to the town 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.

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.

COUNCILLORS UPDATES

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

(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

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

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