

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

APRIL 2020

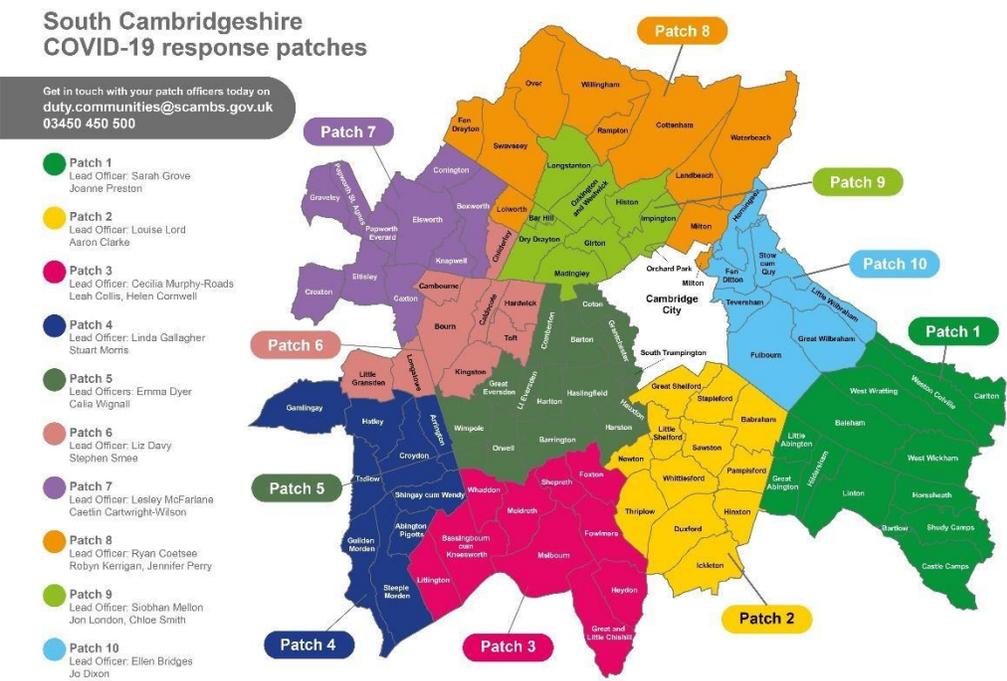
CLLR SARAH CHEUNG JOHNSON & CLLR ALEX MALYON

Our report this month will focus, unsurprisingly, on South Cambs District Councils response to the current Covid 19 pandemic and the support being provided by SCDC to residents, communities and businesses.

We would like to begin by acknowledging the incredible work that is being done by all the fantastic officers at SCDC many of whom, alongside their usual duties, have taken on extra responsibilities and workload at this time. The Council offices at Cambourne are closed to visitors but officers continue to work to support the communities of South Cambs. Instead of visiting the Council offices residents are being encouraged to use other methods to contact the council or interact with services. Further information, including contact details for relevant officers, can be found via the Coronavirus pages on the SCDC website: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

We would also like to recognise and thank the Parish Councils of Oakington and Westwick and Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick Neighbours and all the volunteers in our communities who have pulled together to coordinate the incredible local response to Covid 19 and provide support for our most vulnerable residents. We have been incredibly impressed by the resilience and community spirit we are seeing.

LOCAL PATCH COORDINATORS



As you will hopefully already be aware SCDCs Covid response has been organised by 'patches', with our ward falling within patch 9. Local response in our patch is being coordinated by Lead Officer Siobhan Mellon with Jon London as our direct contact. Jon has been liaising regularly with the Parish Councils.

Officers have drawn together a list of the most vulnerable residents in our communities which were passed on to the Parish Councils so that these residents could be contacted to see if they required support. SCDC housing officers have separately contacted all residents of their sheltered housing to ask if they require any further support.

Lists should also no have been provided to all wards of the most vulnerable residents who appear on the governments 'shielding list'- those who have for medical reasons been asked to self-isolate for 12weeks. This list will only contain those individuals who have registered following receiving a letter from the government or an NHS provider. Those residents who do not register will be followed up, but the scheme is voluntary, and registration is not mandated. It seems that many people on this list report already having support and do not require the support of District or County Councils. Of those who do require support many of these will require the support being provided by the District Hub and local volunteer groups. There is now South Cambs wide coverage with volunteer support groups, supported by the District Council, set up in every ward.

SCDC has put together a number of helpful resources to support community groups and volunteers on their website <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/advice-for-communities/> including links to safeguarding training and details of how to report concerns about a resident.

SUPPORT AND ADVICE FOR RESIDENTS

There is also regularly updated information for residents on the support that is available for them on the SCDC website including information on Council tax, domestic abuse, energy bill payments, food and baby products- SCDC now has emergency supplies available of essential items like nappies and baby formula, housing support, scams, support for young people, voucher schemes for children eligible for free school meals and advice for parents with unwell children

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/support-for-residents/>

There is also information on the many ways in which residents can volunteer or offer support during this crisis, including information about donating to your local foodbank

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/i-want-to-help/>

SCDC is working closely with partners across the County to provide support for residents. The below graphics have been created to help direct residents to where they can access help and support:



Can you offer help? Do you need help?

The Countywide Hub

Supports **shielded residents who are at the highest risk**, ensuring our most vulnerable residents have access to food, medicines and other important supplies, as well as ensuring broader social needs are met as far as possible. These critical services across the public sector are being sustained through additional staff redeployment and volunteers.

Online:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus
or www.peterborough.gov.uk/coronavirus

Call:

0345 045 5219

Open:

Mon-Fri 08:00 to 18:00, Sat 09:00 to 13:00

#Reachout

COVID-19
COORDINATION HUB 



Can you offer help? Do you need help?

South Cambridgeshire Hub

The South Cambridgeshire District Council hub connects people who need help with their local Covid-19 community group. Each group supports vulnerable people who are self-isolating and we'd love to hear from anyone who wants to volunteer their time to help others.

Online:

www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus

Email:

duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk
(08:00-20:00 7 days a week)

Call:

03450 455 218 (08:00-17:30 Mon-Fri)

01954 713398 (emergencies only)

08:00-20:00 7 days a week)

The Countywide Hub supports shielded residents who are at the highest risk:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

#Reachout

COVID-19
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SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS

The District Councils other main role is providing support for local business. For the most up to date information on the support available to business or the self-employed, we recommend checking the Council webpages <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/> or

visiting the governments business information pages: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

It is also possible to sign up for the regular South Cambs 'Open for Business' newsletter via the SCDC website link above.

Business Grants

The Government announced there would be support for small businesses, and businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. This support will take the form of two grant funding schemes, the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund.

Grants for small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of small business rate relief (SBBR), rural rate relief (RRR) and tapered relief will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 to eligible businesses to help meet their ongoing business costs.

Grant funding of up to £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses:

- businesses in these sectors with a rateable value of under £15,000 will receive a grant of £10,000
- businesses in these sectors with a rateable value of between £15,001 and £51,000 will receive a grant of £25,000.

The council have sent emails and letters inviting eligible businesses to apply for the grants using other online form: www.scambs.gov.uk/governmentbusinessgrants

If a business has received the email or letter invitation, then their account is pre-loaded with the payment, so if they are able to successfully complete the application form, the payment will be made by BACS within two working days, following which the payment should be received into their account (subject to the usual delay of a few days experienced with BACS payments).

If they have received the email or letter invitation from SCDC but have not been able to successfully complete the application form (please note the information must EXACTLY match the information on their business rates bill), please email the dedicated inbox with account reference number, and a phone number to call back on: businessgrants@scambs.gov.uk

If businesses have not received an email or letter invitation, but believe they are eligible for the grants, they can also email businessgrants@scambs.gov.uk, with the email subject 'ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANT FUNDING'. As the situation may not be as simple to resolve, this may take slightly longer to respond.

As of the beginning of this week SCDC have successfully granted over £10 million of grants to 892 businesses in South Cambridgeshire.

If businesses are not entitled to the two grants mentioned above but would still like some support in working out what other funding may be available to you, please visit the SCDC website where there is information about non-Government grant schemes. If you would like a member of our business support team to discuss any other support that may be available, please email

openforbusiness@scams.gov.uk A summary of some of the support being offered is available in the latest Business Newsletter.

Business rate relief

The Council has now identified and re-billed all local hospital, retail and leisure businesses who are eligible for this relief. If a business believes they are eligible for rate relief but have not received a bill of £0.00 then they can email NNDR@scams.gov.uk

The Council will shortly be re-billing all children's nurseries who are also now eligible for this relief shortly.

SERVICES IMPACTED BY COVID 19

Officers are doing their very best to maintain services during this period, but some council services have been impacted. Full details of services that are currently impacted can be found via:

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/coronavirus/our-services-that-are-impacted/>

Bin collections

Most residents are now aware of the changes that have been made to the bin green bin collections, with these temporarily suspended. This change was necessary due to sickness and the number of staff within the waste service having to self-isolate. This temporary suspension has allowed them to prioritise black and blue bin collections. More information and some FAQs about the changes to green bin collections can be found here:

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/bins/green-bin-suspension-faqs/>

Bulky waste collections have also been suspended until further notice and all household recycling centres are currently closed.

Community Governance Review for Longstanton Oakington and Northstowe

Unfortunately, all face to face meetings and consultations planned as part of the CGR process in April have had to be cancelled due to the current restrictions. The Council is seeking advice on how the timetable for the review can be amended to enable effective consultation to take place. You are still able to view and comment on the three options being proposed as part of the second phase of the CGR consultation. Full details and maps can be found here <https://www.scams.gov.uk/cgr-lown>

The three options being proposed are:

Option A - All phases of Northstowe create a new parish. Oakington & Westwick remains its own parish with boundaries to include the green separation land with Northstowe as defined by Oakington Parish Council. Longstanton Parish would remain the same up to the roundabout separating Station Road and the B1050 towards Willingham. Land north of the Guided Busway will go to Willingham Parish.

Option B - As above but land north of the Guided Busway to go to Northstowe.

Option C - Only Northstowe phases east of the B1050 would go to create a Northstowe Parish. Longstanton Parish would retain all land to the west of the B1050 which would include Northstowe Phase 3b and Bloor homes.

As District Councillors we do not support option C, as this could eventually add over 2000 Northstowe residents to Longstanton Parish. However, as this was a preference given by a number of residents during phase 1 of the consultation, we are keen for this to be included in the second phase of the consultation so that residents can fully understand the implications of this option and can express their views on this option.

INFORMATION FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE

Domestic Abuse- A message from Cambridgeshire Police

'We know this is a difficult and worrying time for everyone, but particularly those living with domestic abuse. A change in routine and the current advice to stay at home can put added strain on any relationship, but we want to send a clear message that you do not have to suffer in silence and there is never an excuse for abuse.

We want you to know that support remains available during these challenging times and we in the police, alongside a whole host of partners, are here to help.

We appreciate that living in an abusive relationship whilst in lockdown can make you feel as though your voice can't be heard and picking up the phone to us can be even more difficult than usual. But there are still ways to speak out.

Here's how you can contact us:

In an emergency, always dial 999 but if you are in danger and are unable to speak on the phone, call 999 and then press 55. You will be transferred to a call handler who will attempt to ask you simple yes or no questions. If you can't speak at all, listen carefully to the questions and instructions of the call handler so they can assess and arrange help. More information on this service can be found at safelives.org.uk

You can speak to us live for advice any time via our online webchat service our website <https://www.cambs.police.uk/>

You can report domestic abuse on our website. If you want to make an online report without being seen, our website has a permanent red 'quick exit' button at the top of the page which takes you to a weather forecast website. Information on how to hide or delete your online reporting history can be found here <https://www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/About-us/Privacy-notice/Hide-your-website-visit>

Family, friends and neighbours

Many people living with abuse may not feel able to report crime to us and that's how other members of the community can assist. Please help us protect residents by listening out for suspicious behaviour or noises and reporting any concerns you have about neighbours, friends or family members who may be

suffering in silence. We want to be there for the people of Cambridgeshire now more than ever and we can all work together to tackle abuse and safeguard those who need us the most. So please do report any worries to us using any of the above methods.

Setting 'code words' with family and friends can also be an important option during these times. It may not be easy for victims to call police but if an arranged safe word or phrase is in place like "did I leave my scarf at yours?", can let the other person know that they need help.

We would also urge neighbours to stay in touch regularly, either over the garden fence or through the window, and for victims to inform them of their situation. You could arrange so that if something is put in the window, like a vase or a book, it could be a visual sign that they need help.

Speak to other partners

If you do not wish to speak to police direct, there are plenty of charities and organisations who are also on hand to listen and help safeguard you.

National Domestic Abuse Helpline – 08082000247

National Stalking Helpline – 08088020300

Cambridge Women's Aid – 01223 460947

Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough Refuge – 07787255821

LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline – 08009995428

Honour Based Abuse Helpline – 08005999247

Worried you might do something you don't want to do

We understand that these unprecedented times can lead to financial and mental and physical health worries. Arguments can get heated and there's no longer the opportunity to leave the house and cool off by socialising with friends and family.

For tips on how to relax and get away to avoid doing something you don't want to, visit

www.safelives.org.uk/news-views/domestic-abuse-and-covid-19

www.respectphoneline.org.uk/help-for-perpetrators/

You can also visit our website any time for more advice and support on the signs, tackling and living with domestic abuse.

We hope you find this useful. Please remember that we are here for you, you are not alone, and we want you to help us to help you stay safe.'

Reporting a breach of Covid 19 restrictions

Local officers are seeking to resolve situations where people appear to be or are contravening the government advice on physical social distancing and the stay at home measures without resorting to enforcement and issuing fines. They have now produced an online form for reporting any serious concerns about breaches or issues you think they need to know about (this might be a large gathering or individuals repeatedly ignoring the restrictions). They are encouraging residents to use this method to report rather than the 101 service.

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report-a-breach-of-COVID-19-restrictions>

OTHER WARD NEWS

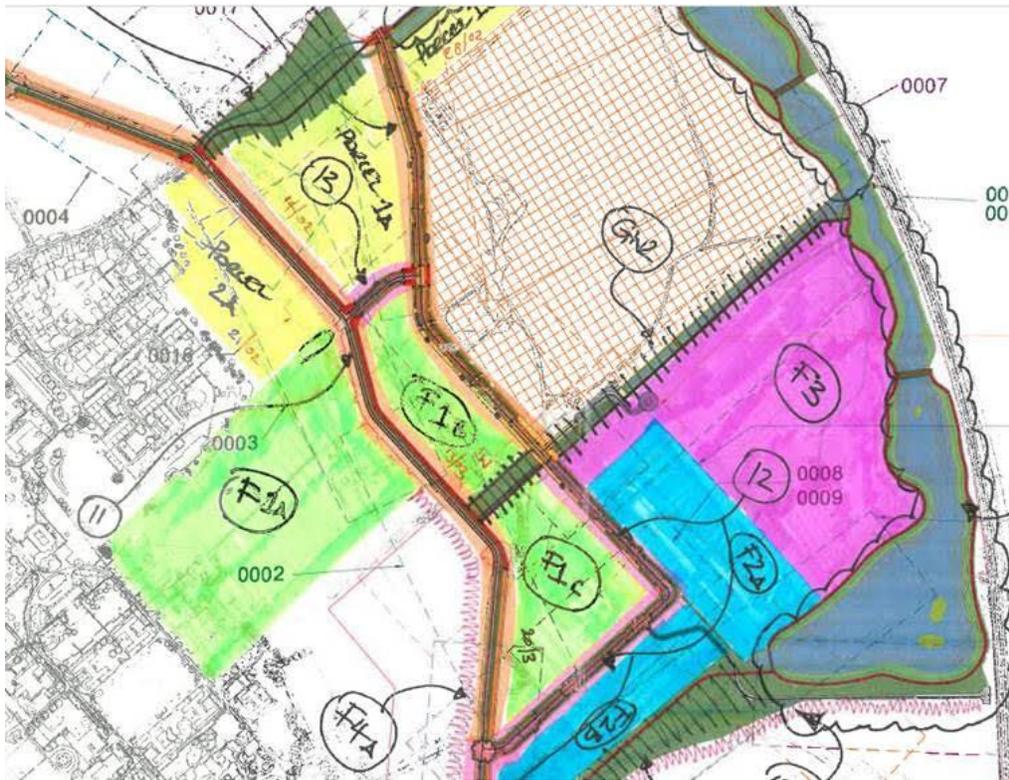
Construction noise from Northstowe Phase 2a site

We have received several complaints about construction noise and out of hours working from residents in Rampton Drift, Longstanton. Out of hours working has been reported to enforcement. We have received the following response from Philip Harker at Homes England regarding the noise:

'With regards to the Parcel Works adjacent to Rampton Drift (Parcel 2A), we expect these works to be completed by close of play Wednesday, which hopefully addresses the immediate issue.

We will however be moving onto Parcel F1A, please see below for location. F1A isn't as close as Parcel 2A and we will be transporting material from the existing runaways (Southern Pond), therefore away from the residents. I do expect the these works to be progressing for the next 6-8 weeks due to the size of the area and volume of material to be placed.

I will ensure that where possible we try our best to manage the interface and mitigate noise. As further information; the infilling in parcel F1A is due to the need to backfill the former archaeology excavations; which have now been completed; and prepare this parcel for future development. We will continue to monitor works and as request that Sisk minimise disturbance to residents of Rampton Drift.



Northstowe Phase 2a Nominated for a Design Award

Phase 2a has been shortlisted for a housing design award. Link below:

https://hdawards.org/scheme/5408_scheme/?sf_data=all&_sft_scheme_year=2020&sf_paged=4

Planning applications for Phase 3a and 3b

We are expecting both submissions for Phase 3a and 3b will be coming to the Council in the next couple of weeks (Phase 3B first). The planning team are working with Homes England and consultees to ensure that comments and actions can be carried out, but we will obviously be more reliant on electronic and web presence than previously anticipated.

Homes England will be assisting in sending the letters to residents (at their expense) and putting up site notices and we will be using the web and social media to spread awareness of this. Both Longstanton and Oakington Parish Councils should have been informed already and will be receiving copies of the application as planned directly from Homes England.

We also want to ensure that the community are not disenfranchised and have opportunities to engage in the application and therefore we will be giving extra time for people to review and comment and continue to plan for an event when current restrictions are lifted.

Oakington Drainage

SCDC have informed us that they plan to carry out further works to the Award drain in Oakington following the end of the nesting season towards the end of the summer/ Autumn. They hope to start with the section along Cambridge Road and then to check the condition downstream as far as the EA main river section. The response from Pat Matthews, SCDC drainage engineer to an enquiry from Andrew Dennis:

'The falls along the brook are very shallow and I would caution against digging the section upstream along the track. This section has been over-dug in the past and tends to fill with silt. However, it would be sensible to scrape the bed in order to remove vegetation and other obstructions. The pinch points along this section are the small capacity private culverts. I have always felt these will slow the flow during periods of heavy rainfall and help reduce risk.

As for the digging works upstream, I have checked with our drainage crew and they believe the local landowner must have undertaken the work.

I inspected the area today and believe it will help if some of the debris could be removed by hand in order to avoid a blockage (subject to staff availability during the present restrictions).'

Kingfisher Pond/Longstanton water issues

The brief for the drainage engineer report to examine potential dewatering in Longstanton Parish has been approved and we have been informed that this is now being put out to tender to the engineers identified by the Parish Council.

We have also been forwarded some recent photos of the Kingfisher Pond showing algae in some of the shallow areas of the pond. We forwarded these to our Ecologist at SCDC who says that they look like blanket weed which will tend to thrive in shallow areas as it requires warmer water. This can be removed but expert advice would need to be sought on methods/control measures given the size of the pond. Nutrient enrichment can be a factor (either from run off from use of fertiliser- which should have been controlled around the pond or even increased use by ducks and other water birds), but this would need to be investigated further. Mike Huntingdon has inserted a line requesting for this to be examined this as part of the water engineer's report.

COUNCILLOR 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 very active Facebook group covering the whole ward here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/>

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 and Northstowe

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