



Longstanton Parish Council Meeting Papers

Full Council Meeting: 8th March 2021



Longstanton Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting, held at
ONLINE via Zoom Meeting
Monday 8th February 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr delaMare-Lyon (Chairman), Cllr Owen, Cllr Brash-Hall, Cllr Burns, Cllr Harrison,
Cllr Castelino, Cllr Street, Cllr McPhater, Cllr Owens

Clerk: Libby White, Parish Clerk
C Cllr Hudson – Cambridgeshire County Council
D Cllr Cheung Johnson – South Cambridgeshire District Council
Jon London, SCDC

In attendance: 4 members of the public

20-21/172 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

20-21/173 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE¹

Absent: Cllr Mukadam and Cllr Pokala

20-21/174 COUNCILLORS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda: None

Requests to Speak: None required

To receive requests for dispensations: None

Grant of dispensations: None.

20-21/175 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION (10 min)

Northstowe resident has raised a concern with SCDC D Cllrs and is disappointed with response. They are concerned about the installation of table tennis tables and gym equipment at Pioneer Park with no planning permission (though allowed under permitted development rights) as it is having severe impact on family lives (within the 30m zone detailed in Open Developments Framework) due to Anti-Social Behaviour and crowds gathering.

Cllr Brash-Hall arrived at 7.34pm.

A second resident also raised concerns about the outdoor gym, and stated that not made aware of this at all when purchasing property (was aware of the playground). They stated that it is a direct intrusion with users being able to look directly into properties.

The applicant for Few's Lane was in attendance and noted that the new application is identical to the chalet bungalows previously built. Still two applications remain undetermined. This new application eliminates the need to discharge into the watercourse as it has a stone soakaway.

Cllr Burns left and returned to the meeting due to technical difficulties at 7.46pm.

20-21/176 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) It was proposed by Cllr Burns, seconded by Cllr Owen and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 11th January 2021 be approved and signed. The minutes had been emailed to all councillors and the Chairman signed at the time of the meeting to be delivered to the Clerk.

1 abstention

- b) The Clerk noted:

- SCDC to recommence Parish Meetings with the first to focus on enforcement.
- Solicitor looking at the response to the planning applicant for Mills Lane.
- Received email about a potentially unstable headstone, there is an area of the cemetery which is flooded and it appears SCDC may own the cemetery. D Cllrs looking into this last matter.
- Election nomination forms to be downloaded by those wishing to stand – must be hand delivered to SCDC.

- c) Clerk's Report - *circulated with meeting papers prior to meeting.*

20-21/177 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

It was noted that the District Councillors' report was circulated with the meeting papers. D Cllr Cheung Johnson noted that SCDC have not been able to complete the repairs to the culvert on Station Road due to weather conditions. Cllr Brash-Hall noted that the problem with the culvert has been reported to SCDC for the last 3 years.

Cllr Owen noted the dissatisfaction with the response from Greenbelt at the recent Northstowe Community Forum and that there is a significant charge for Greenbelt to look after the B1050 ponds which LPC had expressed an interest in looking after. It was confirmed that the Steering Group should be able to help steer how they wish these areas to be maintained.

The Clerk noted that she had written to the relevant department at SCDC to ask that the sweeping of pavements and kerbways in Longstanton be carried out but there has been no response. Cllr Cheung Johnson noted that there have been resource issues and she would chase.

20-21/178 NORTHSTOWE MATTERS

- a) Jon London, Community Development Officer provided an update on Northstowe matters which included:
- 739 occupied dwellings
 - Aware that the table tennis tables and gym is part of FOI and noted that it has been mentioned at Northstowe Community Forum in the past but not as part of a specific item.
 - Currently speaking with Planning about a secondary temporary path from P&R to Western Park or to Bovis and removal of another unofficial footpath.
 - Still working on making videos available from the Community Forum.

Cllr Street joined meeting at 8:13pm.

- b) A written report from Rosie Hughes, Interim Clerk for Northstowe was provided for members and available in the meeting papers.

20-21/179 FINANCE MATTERS

- a) The Clerk noted that the reports had been created for the January finance meeting and had been circulated to all Cllrs. It was noted that the bank accounts at the end of December stood at £499,020.29. The Clerk also noted that SCDC have been informed that there will be a minimum of £30,000 transferred to the new Northstowe Town Council once year end has been completed as their portion of Precept and will be used to start creating the General Reserves for Northstowe.
- b) It was noted that during a meeting in 2020, it had been requested that Brookfield provide a quotation to carry out additional tree work, felt necessary to provide longevity to some of the larger, older trees on the Recreation Ground. The quotation had been circulated to all Cllrs with the meeting papers and would be additional work to that requested of Brookfield following the meeting in October. It was proposed by Cllr delaMare-Lyon, seconded by Cllr Brash-Hall and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote that Brookfield be asked to carry out the additional tree work in addition to that already requested in the sum of £1,150 + VAT.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Brookfield Groundcare

- c) It was proposed by Cllr Owen and seconded by Cllr McPhater, **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote that the Clerk attend the Practitioners Conference between 23rd and 25th February at a cost of £75 +VAT.

Action: Clerk to attend the Conference.

- d) The interim Internal Audit Report was received and noted by members.

20-21/180 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) The Local Validation List Requirements circulated by County Council were considered by members. After a short discussion, it was noted that it was difficult to see the proposed changes listed in capitals due to the amount of capitals used throughout the document. It was felt it would have been better to have had a summary document of changes with the document. Various spelling mistakes noted but otherwise no major comment.

Planning Matters for comment

- b) It was noted that 20/02966/SCRE - EIA – screening option for a proposed solar farm at Wilsons Road, Longstanton had been withdrawn.

- c) 20/5101/FUL – erection of a chalet bungalow with garage and associated infrastructure at The Retreat, Few's Lane

It was **proposed** by Cllr Owen, seconded by Cllr Castelino and **RESOLVED** that the application be recommended for Parish Council SUPPORT with former comments about traffic safety concerns.

1 abstention

Action: Clerk to liaise with SCDC.

Northstowe Planning Matters for comment

- b) 20/02142/OUT – Outline planning application for the development of Northstowe Phase 3B, comprising up to 1,000 homes, a primary school, secondary mixed use zone (with retail and associated services, food and drink, community, leisure, employment and residential use), open space and landscaped areas, engineering and infrastructure works, with details of appearance, landscaping, layout, scale and access reserved. Application accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

Request for an extension due to the number of documents to be considered by Cllrs.

Action: Clerk to liaise with SCDC.

- c) 20/02171/OUT – outline planning application for the development of Northstowe Phase 3A for up to 4,000 homes, two primary schools, a local centre (including employment, community, retail and associated services, food and drink, community, leisure, residential uses and other accommodation), secondary mixed use zones (including employment, community, retail and associated services, food and drink, community, leisure, residential uses), open space and landscaped areas, sports pitches, associated engineering and infrastructure works, including the retention of the existing military lake and creation of a new lake, with details of appearance, landscaping, layout, scale and access reserved. Application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement and involves works to/affecting existing Public Rights of Way.

Request for an extension due to the number of documents to be considered by Cllrs.

Action: Clerk to liaise with SCDC.

20-21/181 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Item brought before 180b.

It was noted that the County Councillor's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. C Cllr provided some additional figures on the Covid-19 pandemic locally. County Council budget setting on 9th February.

20-21/182 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

- a) It was noted that nominations to stand for Cllr would be open from 29th March to the 8th April. The advert created between Cllr Brash-Hall and the Clerk has been included on the back of the most recent Longstanton Life. The Clerk has received one expression of interest already and information has been sent to the resident. It was suggested that a letter be sent out to all dwellings to encourage residents to stand for election. Cllr Brash-Hall expressed interest in creating some materials for vinyl banners, ads, etc.

Cllr McPhater left at 9.23pm

Ask SCDC to support a similar event to those being held for Northstowe.

Action: Cllr Brash-Hall to work on the advertising materials.

- b) It was noted that the Terms of Reference had been held over from the January meeting.

Cllr McPhater rejoined at 9.24pm.

During a fairly lengthy discussion and clarification of the history of changes made, it was **proposed** by Cllr Street, seconded by Cllr McPhater and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to adopt the revised Terms of Reference for the Employment Committee with the date updated to reflect the new adoption date.

Action: Clerk to update date and circulate.

- c) Correspondence had been received from Andrew Thompson to outline the situation with the B1050 Attenuation ponds which was noted by members. It was agreed to have the item as a standing item on the agenda to keep things moving. It is noted that there is some additional work to be undertaken such as the cycleway to Bar Hill and LPC need to be aware that this may need to be

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completed before any land was passed over. After a lengthy discussion it was suggested to contact a resident who had been in contact with Gallagher at the beginning of the development who may understand some information on the ponds.

Action: Clerk to contact resident to see if they have any recollection of conversations.

- d) The Clerk had circulated a document with the meeting papers, detailing the benefits to the Council of the Community Governance degree she was undertaking. It was noted that she had completed four of the six years and gained a Foundation Degree. She would be undertaking two further years to gain the full degree.

20-21/183 ENVIRONMENTAL AND OPEN SPACE MATTERS

- a) It was noted that the work to transfer the Central Open Space (COS) will be covered under item 184a. It was agreed that as the transfer will hopefully take place in 2021, members need to start considering what can be done with the COS once the land is received by the parish council.

After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr delaMare-Lyon, seconded by Cllr McPhater to ask the Wildlife Trust and RSPB to have a look at the COS to understand what can be done to enhance wildlife to then involve residents.

Action: Clerk to make contact with the Wildlife Trust and RSPB

- b) Having declaring a Climate Emergency in August 2020 following research made by the Clerk during one of her assignments, a proposed Action Plan on how the Council will address Climate Change was considered by members. After some discussion, it was proposed by Cllr delaMare-Lyon, seconded by Cllr McPhater and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote that the Action Plan be adopted and to build on as we can

Action: Clerk to update and advertise to the community

20-21/184 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH MATTERS

- a) The Clerk noted that Barratts have provided an update on the adoption of Phase 2 roads as follows:

Central Open Space (COS) - the COS is the key to getting the roads and sewers adopted. Barratts are still awaiting a response from Mr Stroude or his solicitor to answer queries raised by LPC's solicitor. It is anticipated that the land transfer may take up to six months to complete registration with Land Registry.

Sewer Adoption - Anglian Water's (AWS) solicitor 'on hold' while COS transfer is completed. AWS to confirm fees due which is anticipated to be in region of £750-£1,000. A sewer inspection has been completed. A maintenance certificate is to be issued for a period of 6 months. If the Deed of Grant for outfall headwalls is completed then AWS will adopt the sewers at the end of this period.

Highway Adoption – signed land transfer to the Crown Estate has been received by the Crown Estate's solicitor, transfer will conclude once all monies have cleared. Highway inspections and remedial works can only be arranged once AWS adopt the sewers.

Action: Clerk to liaise with the landowner to ask for assistance with queries.

- b) The Chairman and Clerk noted that they had been receiving correspondence from a resident about the footpath on Woodside which they felt was unsafe. The Clerk and Chairman have raised with Highways at County Council who have stated that there is nothing wrong with the footpath and it is not at 'intervention' level. The Clerk has also contacted SCDC chasing when the sweeping of the pavement will be carried out as the leaf fall finished some time ago and there are a few pavements in the village which are particularly slippery due to the vegetation collected on the surface. No response so far and has been further raised with D Cllrs.

In the meantime the resident has continued to raise concerns of this pavement. The Clerk approached a Highways approved contractor who has agreed with the thoughts of Highways but has suggested that just to relay the surface of the footpath would cost in the region of £30k which does not address the slope of the pavement which is the main concern for the resident. It had been stated that only a more in-depth survey, realignment of every access point to properties along the stretch would allow the pavement to have less fall which would be cost prohibitive. Since this time it was noted that the resident's wife had slipped on the pavement and badly bruised her wrist.

Cllr Owens left the meeting at 10:25pm.

It was noted that advice had been provided to the resident recommending that he deal directly with County Council as the appropriate authority who maintain the pavements, including reporting the accident involving his wife. The Clerk to write to residents along the stretch of pavement in question asking that they cut back their hedges/vegetation in line with the boundary and footpath, Cllr Street to look at some personal correspondence he has on the footpath and the Clerk to ask Brookfield what the cost will be to clean the pavement (and others in a similar state) in the village.

Action: Clerk to write to residents on Woodside and speak to Brookfield and Cllr Street to look for relevant correspondence.

- c) It was noted by members that the B1050, near Home Farm Phase 3A is prone to flooding after periods of rain. This has been raised by Cllrs and residents to County Council Highways on a regular basis. Cllr delaMare-Lyon recently witnessed a 4x4 slip on the icy mud left by the flooding. After brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr delaMare-Lyon, seconded by Cllr Burns and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote that an official letter to the Highways Authority asking what they are going to address the ongoing issue.

Action: Clerk to draft a letter to Highways Department.

20-21/185 COMMITTEE MATTERS

Draft minutes for the January Finance Committee were circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

20-21/186 MOTION TO EXCLUDE

It was proposed by Cllr Owen, seconded by Cllr Burns and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote that the public (including any members of the press) be excluded during consideration of the following item 187 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The meeting closed at 10.38pm.

20-21/187 EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

- a) This item was discussed under the Exclusion Order. It was proposed by Cllr McPhater, seconded by Cllr Castelino and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote that the Minutes of Exclusion from 14th December be approved and signed.
- b) This item was covered by a confidential discussion.

20-21/149 MOTION TO RE-ADMIT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

To resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.

The Clerk returned to the meeting at 11.02pm.

Meeting re-opened at 11.03pm.

20-21/150 CORRESPONDENCE (for information only)

It was noted that various correspondence and newsletters have been forwarded to Cllrs during January.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 8th March 2021.

Meeting closed at 11.03pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

ⁱ LGA 1972, s.85

Clerk's Report – March 2021

ONGOING

Website - updated as and when necessary to share ongoing PC news and activities, community news, etc.

A14 Funding – all quotes, specs and information needed to obtain the items were sent to Pam Hobson 17 Jul 20.

Planning application for digital sign done 6th Jan 21 – open for comment.

Longstanton Spice Museum – Consideration of the contents and interpretation board. Meeting with Tony Colville to get update from Steve Coogan

Longstanton Big Weekend – Pencilled in for 26th June 2021 (pending news from Government).

Community Facilities - All work with the charity and soon to ask for the community to get involved.

Central Open Space – land transferred to the Crown Estate. Developers working with Crown Estate to take on ownership of roads. Developer's solicitor awaiting the landowner to answer some questions but not getting anything back from the landowner. Contact details for Wildlife Trust obtained. Need to discuss and get some recommendations from experts

Gravel Pit – Pre-planning meeting held with SCDC. Public Consultations held 24th and 30th September. Landowners meeting held 3rd June 2020. Planning application now live and out for consultation.

Finance – ongoing ensuring work is carried out in time for Finance and/or Full Council meetings. Quarter Oct-Dec 2020 passed to Cllr Castelino.

Village Hall – ongoing looking after bookings, invoicing, general admin and actions from meetings, etc. Currently closed due to lockdown.

Highways – addressing ongoing concerns where possible

Flood Action Group – Finding out what maintenance plan says about ponds on B1050 and checking with SCDC what they are doing about maintenance of watercourse through village.

Pavilion Working Group – no action recently. All action with the charity at the moment.

Planning – monthly responses to SCDC with comments from LPC following review of plans at full council meetings

Playground Risk Assessments – inspections of playground and Duddle Drive LEAPs. Remedial work will be required to surface in playground (to be reviewed).

Annual Playground Inspection – getting quotes on medium risks.

Northstowe – ongoing.

Reading – ongoing reading and keeping up to date with any changes in legislation or items we should be aware of

Kingfisher Pond – HR Wallingford working on the investigations and have requested support, where necessary from Cllrs and residents. First report has been received, circulated and commented upon.

Sustainability Working Group – Initial ideas adopted and supported by LPC – ongoing discussions for other/future projects to be passed to LPC for support.

Audit of burial ground – audit has begun to work out where the errors are between actual plots and map. Some remedial work to be undertaken where 'trees' are growing out of plots.

Audit of burial ground records – some information appears to be missing

B1050 Attenuation Ponds – currently waiting for SCDC to come back with hydraulic assessment

OUTSTANDING

Quality Council – application for Quality or Gold Status (if we can get it) – *still awaiting profiles from 2 councillors (ABH and JS). Further request sent 5th November, reminder 30th November.*

Clerk's Report – March 2021

Risk Assessments – organise the risk assessments to be carried out by Councillors

Community Led Plan – report and findings to be presented to residents and plan made for village

Emergency Plan – started but not completed with few volunteers having come forward

COMPLETE

S106 Northstowe Phase 3 –document sent to Andrew Thompson for his actioning – Sent Sept 20

MEETINGS HELD

Northstowe Support Partnership - 16th February

Northstowe Interim Clerk - 17th February and 2nd March

CAPALC Drop in - 18th February

Neil Stroude - 22nd February

Practitioners Conference – 23rd – 25th February

Tony Colville, Urban Splash – 3rd March

CORRESPONDENCE TO ALL COUNCILLORS

3cs – Nik Johnson Mayor candidate – 8th February 2021

NALC Chief Exec Bulletin – 8th February 2021, 17th February 2021, 1st March 2021

NALC Correspondence re Face to Face meetings – 8th February 2021

CAPALC re Handforth and Training – 9th February 2021

SCDC Weekly Bulletin – 3rd February 2021 (sent 11th), 10th February 2021, 17th February 2021, 24th February 2021, 3rd March 2021

Consultation on new housing policies – 10th February 2021

NALC – Building back Resilient Communities Online Event – 10th February 2021

Planning -no access to online portal 13th Feb – 11th February 2021

HR Wallingford Report meeting – 12th February 2021

Correspondence with Solicitor – 12th February 2021

Precept Infographic – 17th February 2021

Cambridgeshire Local – 22nd February 2021

Roadmap out of Lockdown – 24th February 2021

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Training – 24th February 2021

Have your say on ANPR in Cambridgeshire – 24th February 2021

Draft Finance Minutes – 25th February 2021

NALC Star Awards 2021 – 25th February 2021

Agenda for Full Council – 2nd March 2021

Correspondence to Cricket and Football Clubs – 3rd March 2021

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20-21/200 District Council Matters

To receive the report from the two District Councillors (**appendix 1**)

20-21/201 Keepmoat Homes

To receive a presentation from the developer who will be constructing Phase 2B at Northstowe Phase 2. The presentation has been requested to be between 10 and 15 minutes with 10 minutes for questions.

20-21/202 Northstowe Matters

- a) To receive an update from the Community Project Officer for Northstowe.
- b) To receive a report from the Interim Clerk (**appendix 2**).
- c) To consider residents' concerns over the installation of an outdoor gym and table tennis tables at Pioneer Park near the Pathfinder Primary School. Due to the numerous documents received on this subject, all material has been sent to councillors separately.

20-21/203 Finance Matters

- a) To receive an update on the financial position of the council from the Clerk. The reports sent to the Finance Committee have been sent to Cllrs as a separate email.
- b) To consider joining the ICCM (Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management) to help provide support and guidance with the management of the Cemetery and St Michael's Closed Churchyard as work is required. The organisation provides policy and best practice guidance to burial authorities. It also provides training and its aim is to raise standards for the bereaved. The cost is £95 per annum.

20-21/204 Planning Matters (links to all planning applications can be found on the [Longstanton website](#);

- a) To consider correspondence from a resident over concern about felling of trees in what is understood to be protected woodland at the back of 53 Woodside. (**appendix 3**)

Planning Matters for Comment

- b) 20/03899/HFUL – Amendment to proposed first floor extension over existing garage area, proposed two storey front extension with single storey entrance porch at 24 Stevensons Road, Longstanton
- c) S/3854/19/OL – outline planning application for residential development of up to 80 dwellings and associated infrastructure (considering access only) following demolition of existing buildings at Digital Park, Station Road, Longstanton
- d) 21/00372/S73 - S73 variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 20/02526/HFUL (Construction of log cabin, garage and storage area structure) to change the ridge height of the proposed log cabin, garage and store to be 4.6metres at the highest point as opposed to 3.570 as approved at Gresley House, Station Road, Longstanton.
- e) 21/00462/HFUL and 21/00463/LBC – Replacement of existing hedging with high quality deciduous native conservation grade hedging set further back by 1-2ft at The Manor, Woodside, Longstanton

Northstowe Planning Matters for comment

- f) 20/02142/OUT – Outline planning application for the development of Northstowe Phase 3B, comprising up to 1,000 homes, a primary school, secondary mixed use zone (with retail and associated services, food and drink, community, leisure, employment and residential use), open space and landscaped areas, engineering and infrastructure works, with details of appearance, landscaping, layout, scale and access reserved. Application accompanied by an Environmental Statement.
- g) 20/02171/OUT – outline planning application for the development of Northstowe Phase 3A for up to 4,000 homes, two primary schools, a local centre (including employment, community, retail and associated services, food and drink, community, leisure, residential uses and other accommodation), secondary mixed use zones (including employment, community, retail and associated services, food and drink, community, leisure, residential uses), open space and landscaped areas, sports pitches, associated engineering and infrastructure works, including the retention of the existing military lake and creation of a new lake, with details of appearance, landscaping, layout, scale and access reserved. Application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement and involves works to/affecting existing Public Rights of Way.

20-21/205 County Council Matters

To receive the report from County Councillor Hudson (**appendix 4**).

20-21/206 Council Administration Matters

- a) To receive an update on the campaign to encourage residents to stand for election as a Parish Councillor in May 2021, and to approve any documentation which may be ready for use.
- b) A formal letter of resignation as been received from the 3 remaining trustees of the Hatton & Poor Charity (**appendix 5**). It is the responsibility of Longstanton Parish Council to ensure that there is a quorum of 4 trustees for the charity to enable it to carry out its duties.

Recommendation: that Longstanton Parish Council advertise that trustees are needed.

- c) It is a legal requirement to hold an Annual Parish Meeting (the meeting of electors) every year between 1st March and 1st June. 2021 is no exception even during time of pandemic. In order to fit in before the uncertainty of what is happening with face-to-face meetings, it would be prudent to hold the APM on 26th April (the normal date that LPC has held these meetings for the last 7 years) and to have it virtually with residents logging in or calling in to Zoom. Should this be acceptable, a topic would be useful to discuss and encourage residents to attend.

Recommendation: to confirm the date of 26th April as the date for the APM and to agree a topic for discussion.

- d) Communication has been received that the Government have not yet considered extending the legislation to hold meetings remotely. With the 'roadmap' out of Lockdown dependant on whether 'numbers' are hit and any variants to the virus, there is some trepidation about how parish and town councils can safely meet after 7th May bearing in mind the 2m rule, layout of tables to ensure no one is facing another, numbers which can fit into halls, etc. Therefore it would be prudent to write to our MP, Andrew Brown, and Robert Jenrick as the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to lobby him to have the legislation extended either permanently or for another period of time.

Recommendation: to resolve to send a letter to both Antony Brown and Robert Jenrick.

- e) To consider the [Consultation on New Housing Policies relating to Build to Rent, Clustering and Distribution of Affordable Housing and Affordable Rent Setting](#) from SCDC.
- f) To receive the report from the Clerk following attendance at the SLCC Practitioners Conference held on 23rd-25th February 2021 (**appendix 6**)

20-21/207 Environmental and Open Space Matters

To consider what will be required of the Parish Council once adoption of the Central Open Space (COS) is finalised later this year.

20-21/208 Highway and Footpath Matters

- a) To receive an update on the adoption of Home Farm Phase 2 roads from the Clerk.
- b) To consider the update on the situation with the footpath in Woodside and to receive a quote to clear the footpaths which are particularly affected by leaf fall within the village.
- c) To consider any items to be raised at the Local Highways Meeting arranged by C Cllr Hudson. As Cllr Hudson will not be with us after May 2021, it has been requested that a meeting be held before he leaves to raise these matters as it is not guaranteed that these meetings will continue after May.

20-21/209 Committee Matters

To note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held in February were circulated to cllrs prior to the meeting and are available on the website.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

MARCH 2021

CLLR SARAH CHEUNG JOHNSON & CLLR ALEX MALYON

A reminder that information about South Cambs response to coronavirus can be found on the regularly updated coronavirus pages on the SCDC website:

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

DRAINAGE ISSUES

GENERAL WATER LEVELS

Relevant officers and representatives have met now a couple of times as part of the CPFLOW group where all agencies (EA, Anglian Water, LLFA, etc.) have discussed the flooding across the region and on the meeting yesterday, the EA and other partners have some very interesting figures around the rainfall events from 23rd December through to the end of February.

In short, the EA's presentation has spelled out a very substantial rainfall event, their charts have plotted rainfall from their rain gauges that in certain areas far exceed rainfall events from 1998 and 2001 and whilst they are just in the process of categorising this return period there is no doubt that this event is at least the 3rd largest rainfall event since records began in 1850.

During the meeting it was openly acknowledged that Willingham had locally recorded lower measurements from their rain gauges and this was in some way inaccurate, leading to residents believing that something else was at work such as poor maintenance or failure of systems etc.

The EA also produced their ground saturation records for which they confirmed that very high saturation of ground led watercourses and run off water to be extremely sensitive to any additional rainfall and as such this is exactly what we saw.

Anglian Water also confirmed that off the back of this high saturation, substantial surface water was entering their infrastructure overwhelming the system and causing failures.

LONGSTANTON

An update on SCDC awarded drain off Station Road past the Guided Busway, from our drainage officers:

We have been able to jet through the roots successfully but unfortunately, we couldn't complete the job as ADC Drainage have got their equipment stuck and it is still in the culvert. Despite being able to jet through the roots we are keen to remove the section of pipe and physically clear the section and we have contacted the contractor to provide an estimate of costs for carrying this out.

We have also contacted ADC Drainage to advise them of our intentions to combine the recovery works of their equipment.

On Station Road water levels in general, the Mere Way blockage is a fully culverted section of watercourse running from the guided busway downstream to Mere Way, so it only had an impact on land and property from Mere Way towards the busway on the Left-hand side of the road (except for Stanton House).

In practice this affected the paddock at New Farm, Iona, Cherry cottage, Rosevern, the allotment gardens and Stanton House, no other properties were affected along the left / right hand side of the road or towards the village from Mere Way.

Whilst I was in Station Road over the flooding period, I noticed many properties on both sides of the road pumping out into our watercourses, these properties were between Mere Way and Millfield. I noted that our open watercourse levels across the front of their properties were extremely low and well within water acceptance tolerances despite land at the rear of properties being extremely waterlogged and this was causing residents issues and to pump water into the watercourse.

This is a typical example in practice of what is suggested in the EA's saturation modelling where water sits in low lying areas and does not permeate through the soil, additional rainfall (even small spells) immediately overflow these areas and cause repeat or continued flooding issues for property.

It was also noted that many properties along Station Road had overflowing septic tanks and these were overflowing into the watercourse and this was obviously a product of high water in the rear gardens of properties but of course leads to environmental reports downstream.

NORTHSTOWE PHASE 3B SUBMISSION

RESPONSE TO NORTHSTOWE PHASE 3A PLANNING UPDATED SUBMISSIONS FOR APPLICATION [20/02171/OUT](#).

We are grateful for the additional information and further documents that have been provided by Homes England in this updated submission. Some of these have provided useful clarification. However, we do not feel that there have been substantial changes from the original outline planning application, and we are therefore maintaining our objections.

As District Councillors we wish to object to the overall development based on the following specific issues:

- 1. Green separation and inappropriate development including excessive building heights along the 'Oakington Edge'.**

The Oakington Edge document which has been provided with this updated submission does seek to respond to the comments made by ourselves, Oakington Parish Council (OPC) and residents of Oakington. However, as the comments from OPC highlight this has not allayed the many concerns regarding proposed development along the 'Oakington Edge'.

As in our first submission we still feel that the proposed green separation is not sufficient to provide a buffer between the development of Northstowe and the village of Oakington, especially as much of this green separation will be in use by Northstowe residents in the form of allotments, greenways, cycle paths and a pocket park. In places it is estimated that this green separation narrows to 40 metres. Oakington residents and the Parish Council have raised objections that the boundary of Northstowe will now directly back on to the gardens of existing properties, affecting their privacy. We support these objections.

Concerns are raised about the proposal to locate a large parcel of housing to the South East of the site, near existing properties in Church View and Mill Road. This includes a three-storey block of housing, that will rise above the existing line of the trees. We would support the comments made by Sports England, highlighted by OPC that would support the locating of playing fields on this South East edge, to provide a further green buffer.

We oppose the location of housing on the South West edge of the site bordering Lowbury Crescent and Longstanton Road, which as stated in our previous comments further narrows the green separation. We would suggest that the development stops at the perimeter road.

In addition, we are concerned about excessive building heights along this Oakington Edge. The Northstowe Area Action Plan proposed height restrictions of 2 storeys here so that buildings would be located behind the substantial natural buffers afforded by the existing tree belt. Unfortunately, this application still proposes three storey housing bordering Oakington. We would argue strongly that if approval is given for housing along this Oakington edge, facing Oakington village that it should be at a maximum 2 storey height.

Finally, we support the concerns raised by residents on Station Road regarding the removal of trees adjacent to their property. Without these trees there will be nothing to separate them from the development, and the proposed bus-only access to the site.

2. The location and proposed design of the Southern Access Road East (SARE)

There have only been minimal changes made to the proposal for the SARE and we reiterate our objection to the design of and location of the SARE. If the SARE is still required then we would support the locating of this in the vicinity of the new A1037 or existing Dry Drayton roundabout, rather than feeding onto the Dry Drayton Road nearer to the village, near the Oakington Business Park. The proposed route will lead to an unacceptable increase in traffic through Oakington. The reassessment of traffic flows contained in this updated submission have in fact increased the figures for expected traffic flows through the village. We do not believe that the projected traffic flows will

be sustainable. They will place significant pressure on the existing junctions and have a detrimental impact on the residents of Oakington. We are particularly concerned for the safety and issues of air pollution around the Primary school in Oakington, which sits directly on Water Lane.

3. Drainage and Flooding

Flood attenuation is also essential to Oakington village, much of which is located on a flood plain. The village has suffered several recent flood events, most recently at the end 2020. Unfortunately, this updated submission has not alleviated the serious concerns with the proposals for drainage from Phase 3a and how this will impact upon Oakington.

Should permission be granted, firm conditions and commitments are sought from Homes England to sufficiently mitigate the flood risk to Oakington village to at least a 1 in 200-year event standard (plus a 40% climate change allowance). We would refer the committee to the comments made by the OPC and Oakington Flood Mitigation Group and the proposed conditions which they have asked to be attached to any outline approval.

4. Ecology

We note with concern the comments from the SCDC Ecology that a number of issues remain unresolved by the additional information contained within this updated submission and we would ask that these important ecological considerations are addressed prior to any approval.

In particular we are concerned by the potential for human wildlife conflict in areas of the development. The additional information has stated that the Ecological Management Plan will set out how the balance between ecological mitigation and potential disturbance by residents and their pets will be managed but questions regarding this remain and further clarification is needed before any permission is granted. The information provided states that open space provision for Phase 3a is currently over and above what is required. We would therefore support the proposal of the Ecology Officer to consider specific dedicated ecological mitigation areas, such as the southern attenuation area, which will have limited accessibility to protect from human disturbance.

We are particularly concerned about the area surrounding the Military Lake. While we understand that commitments have been made to limit the use of the Lake itself for recreation, which we welcome, the area around the lake is also of significant importance, particularly for the common toad population, which is of County importance. The proximity of housing (apartments within 20-30 metres of the lake) and the use of this area for amenity will have a detrimental impact of wildlife and habitats and we would ask that consideration is given to this within the EMP.

5. Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

We do not feel that this updated submission has provided the necessary assurance that the impacts of construction on residents will be satisfactorily managed. As we outlined in our previous comments, we have had significant issues with enforcement of planning conditions related to construction on the Northstowe site. This has caused considerable disruption to residents living on or near to the site. It is therefore essential that robust, enforceable conditions are contained in any CEMP approved as part of this application. We feel there are continued inadequacies in the existing CEMP. We would ask that accurate, measurable, and enforceable conditions are placed upon any development, to cover:

- Development work timings – strict limits on times of construction
- Specific requirements on noise and dust monitoring, mitigation, and routes to resolve issues.
- Limits of construction vehicle movement with no construction vehicle access via Oakington village

NORTHSTOWE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

There have been concerns raised at the 60% number for affordable homes proposed for Northstowe Phase 2b (Keepmoat Homes) and we copy below information from Planning on how this number has been arrived at. We would note that affordable homes are not the same as social housing (council housing) and covers amongst others: Starter homes for people who are not yet on the housing ladder, shared equity homes and shared rent (e.g., for keyworkers to make them more affordable).

This has been quite complicated and in terms of Phase 2 requires some background to national policy and changing national policy. As you will be aware, the non-delivery of policy compliant affordable housing due to viability caused by delivery of strategic transport and education infrastructure has been a concern raised by planning committee.

It should be noted that Phase 1 delivered 20% affordable housing due to viability issues.

PHASE 2

Phase 2 planning permission was granted in January 2017 at that time Starter Homes were not formally within the definition of affordable housing as set out in National Policy (the National Planning Policy Framework (2012)) and therefore is a specific provision for Northstowe (hence the name being Northstowe Starter Homes). At the time Ministers had made a series of announcements and changes through the Housing and Planning Act 2016 with ambition of providing support to first time housebuyers which became its Starter Home project/programme. However, the definition of Starter Homes is not strictly in accordance with the now adopted national Starter Home definition as it did not exist at that time but the discount and capping of the sales price falls probably now somewhere between Starter Home and Discounted Market Sale definitions in current national policy (see below).

Northstowe therefore pre-empted formal Government planning policy (as the Act needed to be reflected in Government guidance) and therefore the definitions within the s106 are slightly different to those that are in normal s106s for shared equity homes and also required departure from our normal SPD which is why the delivery is higher than expected due to the bespoke nature of the Northstowe Starter Home provision.

Regarding the Northstowe Starter Homes (the sale price being capped at a maximum sales price of £250k for a period of 5 years) this will continue to be delivered at 40% across Phase 2 in every development parcel. It was felt that capping the sales price for 5 years would help essential workers and other low paid workers onto the housing ladder.

Over Phase 2 affordable rent housing will be delivered with 20% delivery for the first 1,000 homes delivered in total (i.e., providing 200 affordable homes) and then a further 50 homes by 2,500 homes (total 250) and a further 50 by 3,000 homes (total 300) and a final 50 by the completion of the development (3,500 homes) bringing the total to 350 affordable rent homes in the Phase. This means the overall provision will be 10%. To frontload the affordable delivery in phase 2 was part of the committee approval.

Phase 2a will deliver 81 affordable rent homes (including 60 age restricted homes for the over 55s) (20%) and the 40% Northstowe starter homes (163 in total through 23 x 1 & 2 bed starter homes apartments, 97 x 1 & 2 bed starter home mansion house apartments and 43 x 2 bed starter home row houses). The affordable homes are not on the border with Rampton Drift and are along the busway and across the centre of the site.

Looking at the Phasing Plans for Phase 2, the next Phases, which will complete the first 1,000 homes, will probably be between Urban Splash and Phase 1 and housing within the town centre development with the elements between Rampton Drift and Longstanton being the last to be delivered and therefore with a lower amount of affordable rent housing.

PHASE 3

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in 2018 and 2019 which updated the definition of Affordable Homes to include:

Starter homes: is as specified in Sections 2 and 3 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any secondary legislation made under these sections. The definition of a starter home should reflect the meaning set out in statute and any such secondary legislation at the time of plan-preparation or decision-making. Where secondary legislation has the effect of limiting a household's eligibility to purchase a starter home to those with a particular maximum level of household income, those restrictions should be used.

So Northstowe Phase 2 perhaps got a better provision of affordable homes due to the high level of starter homes, but it stressed that the Starter Home provision was a provision specific to Northstowe as this was negotiated and reported as part of the planning committee resolution (the County Council are also involved in signing the s106).

In terms of Phase 3 we will be seeking 40% affordable housing across the Phase in a mix of tenures across the definitions in the NPPF and to meet the housing need (we are expecting further updates to the NPPF in the next year or so, but no formal date has been given). It is not anticipated that the

definition of affordable homes will be significantly altered at this time. It should also be noted that we ensure that the design quality of homes market and affordable are the same and that the affordable homes are distributed across each parcel with clusters being kept at a maximum of 25.

This includes:

Affordable housing: housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the following definitions:

a) Affordable housing for rent: meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government's rent policy for Social Rent or Affordable Rent, or is at least 20% below local market rents (including service charges where applicable); (b) the landlord is a registered provider, except where it is included as part of a Build to Rent scheme (in which case the landlord need not be a registered provider); and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. For Build to Rent schemes affordable housing for rent is expected to be the normal form of affordable housing provision (and, in this context, is known as Affordable Private Rent).

b) Starter homes: (as above)

c) Discounted market sales housing is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future eligible households.

d) Other affordable routes to home ownership is housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low-cost homes for sale (at a price equivalent to at least 20% below local market value) and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent). Where public grant funding is provided, there should be provisions for the homes to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for any receipts to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision or refunded to Government or the relevant authority specified in the funding agreement.

PHASE 1 VIABILITY QUESTIONS

We have been asked what the viability issues were with Phase 1. This was before both Sarah and Alex's and our current planning officers time working on this, but we have put together this information and hope this helps to elaborate:

All parcels apart from the Bloor Homes parcel (H1) have a proportion of Affordable Rent and Shared Equity on them. The amount is determined by the scale of the parcel (i.e., the number of houses within it). The total of 300 is split 180 towards affordable rent with 120 towards shared equity.

In terms of viability, we think that because Bloor would have been delivered early with no affordable housing to support the early delivery of the road infrastructure to the B1050 and enhancements.

We would also highlight that what is clear from the report that the County Council education and transport costs (e.g. Guided Busway, Primary school, Secondary school contribution and other transport costs) totalled a significant proportion of the s106 and at c.£26m of the total £33m sought and that this on top of the cost of other infrastructure on site (e.g. LEAPs, Pioneer Park, the water

park (sustainable drainage), Hatton's road ponds, the new junction on the B1050 and other costs) proved to have an impact on the viability of the scheme. At in excess of £20k per house in terms of the financial sum, the level of s106s is significant on top of normal development costs.

As it was deemed that all s106s and on-site infrastructure was necessary to make the development acceptable, the level of affordable housing was reduced. The Council sought professional advice in this matter. It would be that the level of s106 contributions sought and infrastructure needed was the reason why the level of affordable housing was lower than policy. We would add this discussion has occurred on similar large sites not just in Cambridgeshire but also further afield.

NORTHSTOWE PHASE 2B – KEEPMOAT

We attended a presentation from Keepmoat and are ensuring they are working on consulting more widely, in particular with Rampton Drift residents and are working with the Council to form a session for the developers and planning and housing officers to attend.

There are virtual presentation boards of the information on this development here:
<https://keepmoat-thefenways.consultationonline.co.uk/>

CONSERVATION WOODLAND WOODSIDE

Concerns have been raised regarding recent tree works that have been carried out in the area of conservation woodland at the rear of properties along Woodside. Residents are concerned about the condition of the wood and that this is gradually being degraded by the removal of trees. We have contacted our Tree Officer regarding this, and she has provided the below response.

In this case the decision was made not to impose a condition requiring replanting following the removal of trees as it was felt that trees in this woodland would not have done well- would have died or become stunted. Unfortunately, the landowner cannot be compelled to have a management plan for the woodland.

I know the piece of land you are referring to well. Part of it is covered by the conservation area, part by TPO 0005 (2005) W1 and part by the both the conservation area and TPO.

The TPO on site is a woodland TPO and therefore is considered in a different manner to individuals, area, or group TPOs. This is because woodland management differs to general arboriculture. It has different aims and different methodologies. This is partly because it uses different skills, techniques, and equipment, and partly because woodland is more than trees, woodland is an environment where the biggest visual organism is the trees.

When considering an application relating to woodland, the authority has to grant consent so far as accords with good forestry practice unless it is satisfied that the granting of consent would fail to secure the maintenance of the special character of the woodland or the woodland character of the area.

This piece of land is a derelict tree nursery lot. It has no special character or designation but is a nice piece of canopy cover for the village, a quiet area for wildlife as there are no public rights of way through the site, greenery visible above the houses and perhaps most importantly now a contributing buffer between Longstanton and Northstowe. Therefore, any reasonable woodland work would be permitted.

The work applied for under 20/1489/TTPO relates more to safety work than woodland. However, the area where ten stems are to be felled is a dense row of outgrown field stock i.e. when the tree nursery was left, the row of small saplings, which were small and numerous, were left to grow and never thinned out. This means in the intervening years they have become crowded, tall with a thinner stem than ideal. They have fought for the light through upward growth and become drawn up. There is also a significant amount of self-set trees as well. Overall, the quality of the trees is very variable but there are no trees which are individually impressive, because of the age of the woodland and its history as a nursery. Within this row there are maidens and multistems, hence why the tree works specification uses the word stem instead of trees. The agent and I used this term specifically to pin down the scale of tree works.

Ideally this woodland would have a management plan which would thin the trees (i.e., remove stems, not thin as in a crown thin) to a level where light would reach the soil, to enhance the herb and understory layer but it is a micro wood and clearly the owner does not want to go down this route. Woodland owners, currently, cannot be compelled to create and adopt a management plan by any authority or organisation. However, the owner is managing his wood by having an arborist undertake and safety inspection and then undertake the recommended works. This is a rare and unusual step for this type of landowner and should be applauded. It also discharges his duty of care as a tree owner and managing the risk.

With regard to planting, TPO applications are often approved with conditions, and where trees are removed often (but not always) include replacement tree planting. It is not always appropriate to place a condition on an approval for replanting, especially in woodlands. If trees were planted in this woodland, they would either die or become stunted, ill formed trees. Please also bear in mind that this woodland needs more light to the soil as it is quite the thicket.

Every tree works case is assessed on its merits. Although it appears, and feels, like a tree work application factory as we manage over a thousand tree works cases a year, they are all assessed on an individual basis. Jay assesses them all to see if they are valid and include the right information. I look at each one to assess what it is, where and its merits. A case such as 20/1489/TTPO had this but also, and a site visit from myself, then a conversation with the agent about the work and specification, the agent returning to site so he can provide additional clarity, then another conversation between myself and the agent, the agent amending the proposal, Jay and myself amending the application and determining it. We actually overran the eight-week determination date, to make sure we got things just right.

If you would like more detail about TPO woodlands and applications, it is the same free web source as for a TPO information, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas#tree-preservation-orders--general>.

I would be hard pressed to give you one woodland resource as it is a very large subject. Cambridgeshire Libraries does not really cover this subject. The parish clerk receives the South Cambs Tree Warden Network emails and these often include woodland and farmland links to grants, resources and interesting websites. You never know what will spark and we have a diverse district with all sorts of interested landowners and groups. As the clerks are often a knowledge hub within a village, they can then distribute the email or information to whomever they think may be interested in an item. I love to hear that one of these emails has sparked something, a project or piece of work in one of the villages.

VACCINATION BRIEFING, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF WHICH ARE BELOW:

More than 90% of residents aged 70 and above in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have received their first dose.

Anyone aged 64 and over, or Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (previously on the shielding list), who has not yet had their first dose should now make an appointment at www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination or by phoning 119.

Carers are included in cohort 6 for vaccination if they fit the definition of “adult carers”, which is defined as “Those who are eligible for a carer’s allowance, or those who are the sole or primary carer of an elderly or disabled person who is at increased risk of COVID-19 mortality and therefore clinically vulnerable.” Eligible adult carers will be contacted via the National Booking System (NBS) to receive an invitation to book vaccination through Vaccination Centres, Community Pharmacies or Hospital Hubs, once a list of these individuals has been produced.

If an individual has been added to the Shielded Patient List as part of the new QCovid model, the NHS will contact them to offer them the vaccine as soon as appointments become available. The NHS may contact patients via text message, letter, or a phone call to offer an appointment.

Latest research findings

The latest findings from the Imperial College London’s React study show that the number of COVID-19 infections is halving every 14.6 days. The research, which saw more than 85,000 swab tests carried out across England between February 4 and 13, showed that infections had dropped to one in 200 people testing positive.

Rates are continuing to fall in all regions of England, according to the latest weekly surveillance report from Public Health England (PHE). In the East Midlands, the rate of new cases stood at 176.7 per 100,000 people in the week to February 14. This is the highest rate of any region but down from 228.4 in the previous week. South-west England recorded the lowest rate - 87.4, down from 123.1.

The Public Health England report also shows case rates in England are falling among all age groups. The highest rate remains among 30 to 39-year-olds, which stood at 192.5 cases per 100,000 people in the seven days to February 14, down week-on-week from 270.8. For people aged 80 and over, the rate fell from 208.0 to 129.6.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN SOUTH CAMBS

Working with volunteer groups across the District, officers and elected members have been looking back at the outstanding work done by volunteer groups, working alongside Ward members and SCDC patch officers, throughout the COVID-19 period. Many volunteer groups also wish, themselves, to harness their experiences and expertise and to build on these. South Cambs is now embarking on research to consider how best to take forward and develop this work to build community resilience networks across the District. It is intended to set up some focus groups to discuss initial ideas and to then determine how best to continue community groups beyond the

immediate COVID-19 crisis. The intention would be that these groups would work alongside parish councils. It is early days yet and there will be due consultation with existing volunteer groups, with parish councils and with elected members as this work progresses.

COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Business Support Unit continues its important work with local businesses helping them through the COVID-19 crisis, with funding, with advice and with other support. This has been a massive effort and has involved a huge amount of dedicated hard work.

Grants: £6,932,202 paid in total to 3,056 business since November.

You can find further information on current financial and other sources of support for business via:

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/>

IDENTIFYING LOCAL DIGITAL CHAMPIONS

In addition to us continuing to make full use of more traditional methods of communicating with residents, we are now looking to reach out to our communities through more localised digital channels (such as local Facebook groups or village distribution lists). The aim is to ensure important communications reach more people in their communities.

To do this, we hope to recruit 'Digital Champions' in every village in the district. We would work with them to identify and better engage with local Facebook pages, What's App groups, bloggers & influencers, and village news-sites etc which our Champions could act as liaison with, to help push vital messages out into the communities.

This will help us to understand the varied communications channels preferred by our communities so that we can improve and target our messaging and maximise its impact. This would be for key information only, such as latest COVID-19 messaging, key campaigns, emergencies, or potentially an issue where we are unable to collect all the bins in a village.

We will reassure the Digital Champions that we won't be flooding them with lots of messages on a daily basis, and it may be that we would have more than one Champion in a community to spread the load with each taking responsibility for different elements.

We are aware of a number of some village-based channels and Facebook pages and closed groups but want to talk to members and communities to better understand the opportunities. With that in mind, we will be starting the process of calling members to tap into your knowledge in the weeks ahead. If you already have some possible contacts for your patch, please let the Communications Team know.

SELF-ISOLATION SUPPORT SCHEME EXTENDED

[Financial help for people to self-isolate](#) has been extended until the end of June and expanded to include parents who need to have time off work to look after a child who is self-isolating.

The scheme was due to expire at the end of February, but the Government has announced that it has been extended to allow Councils to continue supporting everyone who needs assistance to self-isolate.

People who need to self-isolate are able to make a bid for funding from The Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme which is administered by us - and each of the district and city councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Those who don't meet the criteria are also able to apply for a discretionary payment of £500.

Full details of the scheme – along with eligibility criteria – [can be found on our website](#).

SOUTH CAMBS MAGAZINE – BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

We have spotted an error in the bin collection calendar in the winter 2020 edition of South Cambs Magazine. This is the edition of the magazine that was delivered to all residents across the district late November / early December last year. So, for now at least, it remains the 'current' and most recent edition that residents have.

Normally, the bin collection calendar dates in one magazine run up to (and usually past) the final delivery date for the following magazine. In this instance that has not happened. The spring 2021 edition, which contains the new bin calendar, starts getting delivered to residents on Monday 8 March. The primary source of bin collection dates for residents should always be our [online bin collection calendar](#). Residents can contact refuse@scambs.gov.uk or call 03450 450 063 for waste-related questions.

MHCLG UPDATES

GUIDANCE ON APPROACH TO ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS DURING CORONAVIRUS

The Government has, (26 February), published guidance on how political parties, candidates, agents, and campaigners can undertake COVID-secure campaigning activity for the May 21 polls.

Announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-secure-election-campaigning-will-go-ahead>

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-governments-approach-to-elections-and-referendums-during-covid-19>

RAPID LATERAL FLOW TESTING FOR HOUSEHOLDS AND BUBBLES OF SCHOOL PUPILS AND STAFF

Yesterday (28 February), the Government announced that households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves for coronavirus twice a week at home. Households, childcare and support bubbles of primary, secondary and college staff and adults working in the wider school community, including bus drivers and after school club leaders can also be tested. The twice-weekly test kits can be accessed:

- via employers if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Schools should not give test kits to parents, carers or household members and should not order more test kits for this purpose. Letters containing advice on where to access testing will be made available for schools to share with parents and staff shortly. The guidance provides information on who can be tested and how people can get a test.

Announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

FINANCE

THE MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The five-year General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) delivers our Business Plan for South Cambridgeshire and its four principal objectives namely Growing Local Businesses and Economies, Housing that is Affordable for Everyone to Live In, Being Green to Our Core and delivering A Modern and Caring Council. It is reviewed and refreshed every six months. At its February meeting the Full Council has refreshed the MTFS to incorporate an updated financial forecast of the risks associated with COVID-19 and of the changes made and intending to be made by the Government in its financial support for local government, including the changes to the Public Works Loan Board rules.

In order to deliver the Business Plan and our statutory duties the Council must take a proactive approach to managing its resources effectively. Our four-year Service Transformation Programme introduced during 2019/20 and our commercial investments are delivering savings and additional revenue and are at the centre of this. As a result of the refresh, despite the challenges we now face we forecast we will need to find £5 million in savings and additional income over the coming five years which is about the same as it was this time last year. Moreover, we have a healthy General Reserve balance of around £16.5 million to deal with unforeseen problems.

We are still expecting the Government to carry out a major review of local government finance next year and we continue to take what we believe could be the worst-case scenario for us in our forward planning.

THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR

The Full Council meeting also approved the General Fund Revenue Budget and the Housing Revenue Account and Capital budget for 2021/22.

The heart of the General Fund Revenue Budget is the COVID-19 business and social recovery in South Cambridgeshire and about continuing to give support to our residents and businesses to help them recover from the pandemic in the coming financial year. This budget also recognised the Government's local government financial settlement for the coming financial year - which in the words of the Local Government Association - is dependent on councils increasing council tax bills.

The net expenditure for 2021/22 to be met from Government Grants, Business Rates and Local Taxpayers is estimated at nearly £21.7 million pounds. Council Taxpayers are being asked to pay an

extra 10 pence a week for the average Band D property, bringing its annual council tax bill to £155.31p. Not to do this would require us to use money from reserves building up trouble for the future. Nevertheless, the Council Tax bill from South Cambridgeshire District Council will continue to be in the lowest 25 per cent of all district council taxes. We have a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for those on low incomes which we have already discussed this afternoon, as well as having discretionary powers to help council taxpayers.

We have seen a hit on Business Rate income, and we have concerns that the long-term effects of COVID-19 in terms of business failures and property devaluation may impact on the Business Rate growth in this coming financial year. Against this background of less income from Business Rates and grants, the council is not just relying on more money from council taxpayers.

To do our bit we have embarked on an ambitious 4-year plan to transform council service quality, better realign our financial resources to business plan priorities and improve customer service. This will achieve a reduction in net expenditure compared to 2020/21 of over £2.1 million. But we can't just stand still. Helping our communities and businesses fight back in these difficult circumstances is essential. So, some of the savings achieved have gone to pay for additional support. For COVID-19 we have set aside a revenue contingency of a quarter of a million pounds and there is a two-year post for a Welfare and Visiting Advisor to support and enhance the work of the Housing Benefits team during this difficult time for our residents. There is more funding for homelessness at this time of economic hardship and for land drainage when we are seeing record breaking rainfall due to climate change. And staffing support to maximise our investment opportunities, which is key to retain our financial resilience to deliver place making and income. South Cambridgeshire District Council with a General Fund reserve of £16.5 million is in a sound financial position and this budget gives us the financial stability to proceed into the next council year and beyond.

The Housing Revenue Account budget is focused on delivering more council housing and improving the service to our tenants. The HRA budget continues to be set in the context of a 30-year business plan. We must also remember that broadly speaking the HRA cannot be subsidised by local tax and it has to support a housing debt of £205m pounds taken out by the previous administration to enable us to retain our council rents from the Government.

As to the council house building programme, we have external funding from section 106 commuted sums, retained right to buy receipts and how we utilise these funds is identified in the Housing Capital Investment Plan. Since April 2018 we have completed 105 rented and shared ownership properties and have 248 in the pipeline. We have also disposed of 8 plots for self-build. We estimate the HRA balance at the end of this financial year will be just over two and a half million pounds and while this is adequate for HRA purposes it would not be prudent to let it fall much below that figure. There is therefore no alternative to increasing council rent levels if we are to maintain our drive to improve the customer service to our tenants and grow our social housing stock.

Rents will increase by 1.5 per cent in line with Government policy and this means that the average social rent will increase to 106 pounds and 2 pence per week. And in line with rent legislation our affordable rents will continue to be no more than 80% of the market rent. At the time of writing the report the average affordable rent was 148 pounds and 18 pence.

We are acutely aware that some of our tenants are having financial problems. Paragraph 21 explains that because of the pandemic current council rent arrears have increased significantly in percentage terms. However, the introduction of the new Orchard housing management system

should allow for targeted review of tenants' arrears & collections. We anticipate that this position will improve as we emerge from the pandemic. The HRA budget also includes support for tenants some of whom are receiving Universal Credit.

ZERO CARBON INITIATIVES

There is a lot of useful and interesting information in the Spring edition of the zero carbon communities newsletter, well worth reading.

<https://sway.office.com/nbeul3HuLf5mQr4P?ref=Link>

The Doubling Nature strategy, which we hope will have wide-ranging implications for all aspects of the Council's work, is also set out here. We hope, also, to announce soon the criteria and application deadlines for the ZCC grants round for 2021/2002 and will be encouraging all parishes in the Ward to apply.

South Cambs Climate and Environment Fortnight 2021 is part of our commitment to be 'green to our core'.. It features a series of online events which focus on climate change and the environment, which commenced on 22 February. Full details can be found here:

<https://www.scamb.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/climate-and-environment-fortnight-2021-events/>

OXCAM ARC

There have been notices in the press recently concerning the government's intentions to provide more detail on the development of the OxCam Arc – a growth corridor between Oxford and Cambridge. This is an area of the country marked out for significant development in terms of jobs, housing, infrastructure. There is also now more attention to the impact of climate change on the way development takes place. The green agenda, with an emphasis on low carbon initiatives, on biodiversity, on landscape and water management is very much being led by South Cambs – particularly through the work of the Leader, Bridget Smith and that of Chief Executive, Liz Watts.

It is important for our area, our villages, that we keep abreast of these developments and have an input into the developments; and elected councillors will be doing just that. We have attached to the end of this report information from a presentation made recently giving more details of the development of the spatial framework; and we will continue to report as and when further information comes forward.

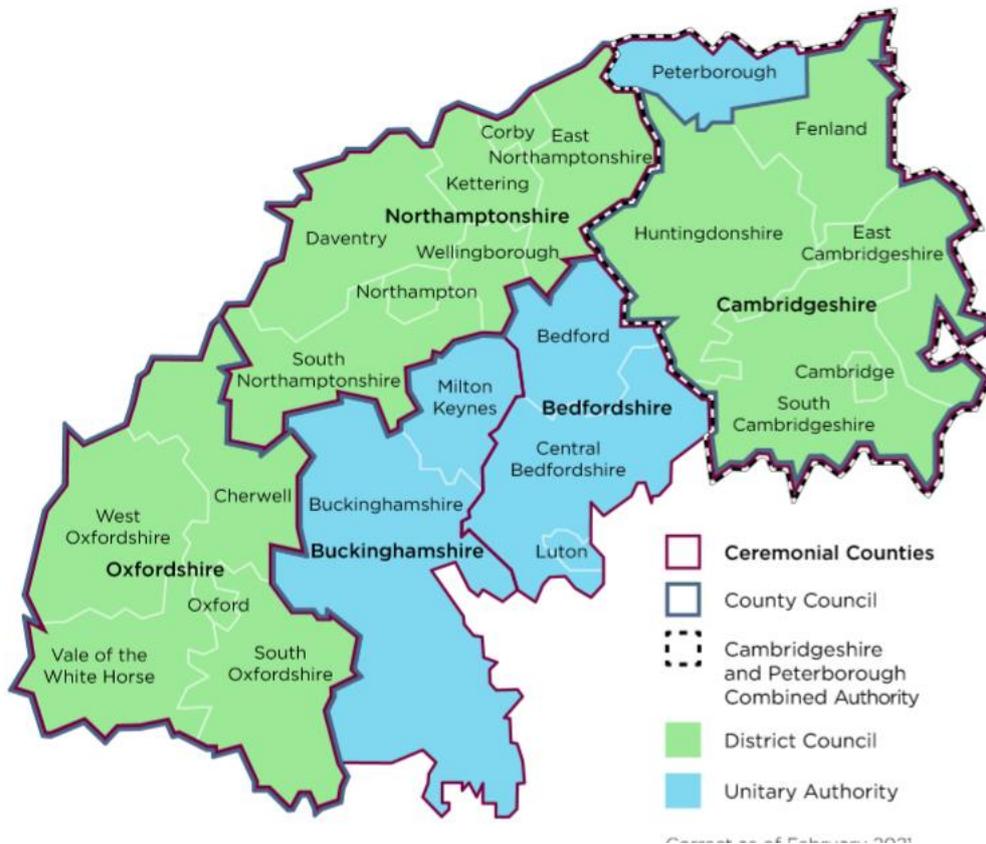
OXCAM ARC SPATIAL FRAMEWORK: POINTS TAKEN FROM A RECENT GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT

PURPOSE:

- support long-run sustainable economic growth across the area
- help to make the area a brilliant place to live, work and travel in – for existing residents and future communities alike
- Support lasting improvements to the environment, green infrastructure, and biodiversity.

By "...focusing on the strategic opportunities for growth and environmental improvement that cross local administrative boundaries and require more joined-up thinking across the area..."

Approach to the Framework – 10 Principles- Collaborative Adaptable Long-term Integrated Inclusive Digital-first Evidence-based Sustainable Quality Add Value



The Areas Economy – Spatial Framework will...

- provide an assessment of existing employment land, planned growth, and anticipated future need.
- set policies to support local planning authorities in allocating these as Strategic Business Zones or Strategic Industrial Locations, as appropriate
- set policies to support different land uses for different sectors and sizes of business.

The Environment

Setting policy to...

- support retention of, and investment in, key existing and potential new habitats, and improve access to nature and accessible green space
- set high standards for new development, including on carbon emissions, water management, green space, integrated and functional green infrastructure, e.g., for active travel and biodiversity net gain
- support an integrated water management approach, taking into account sustainable water abstraction and drought resilience, water quality, reducing risk and resilience to flooding and how and where new infrastructure should be developed

- support clean air outcomes, with clear links to housing and transport policies
 - embed the enhancement of natural capital across the Arc
- Includes objective to identify Environment “Opportunity Areas”

Transport and Infrastructure in the Arc

“...taking an infrastructure-first approach to growth – identifying and delivering strategic infrastructure priorities as development happens”.

- Mapping existing health, education, accessible green spaces, social and community infrastructure, utilities, green and blue infrastructure, and other infrastructure requirements at an Arc-wide scale
- Identify future need and gaps in provision
Create an infrastructure plan to facilitate future growth.
- proactively setting strategic policies for local transport authorities and local planning authorities to enable this.
- targeted climate resilience and air quality policies based on air quality modelling.
- wider strategic policies to facilitate utilities investment in line with key development opportunities, including digital infrastructure.

Housing and Planning in the Arc

“...We will plan for the right level of growth in the Arc... to do this the spatial framework will identify:”

- Opportunity Areas, to support local planning authorities to plan for this growth
- the infrastructure needed to support sustainable growth in those locations, and the key locations for strategic infrastructure to support sustainable growth
- locations for environmental enhancement to achieve greater environmental benefits that can allow development to take place elsewhere

Spatial Framework – polices to enable...

- new settlements to come forward at the scale and speed needed
- new development to support habitat recovery, delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and provision of good-quality green space within schemes
- brownfield redevelopment and densification, and expansion of existing settlements, in sustainable locations or locations that can be made more sustainable by enhanced access to sustainable transport modes
- housing needs to be met in full, including delivery of much-needed affordable housing

“...It will indicate locations but will not include site allocations, and it will not include detailed policies set elsewhere in national policy or better left to local plans.”

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

Contact details:

Sarah Cheung Johnson: cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk

Alex Malyon: cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk

Appendix 2

Interim Clerk for Northstowe

My work this month has centred on the elections in May 2021, working with Capalc arranging and attending the 'Pre Councillor' training sessions. These were popular and gave an opportunity to promote the new Town Council to Northstowe residents. I managed a visit to Northstowe this week for a brief 'walk-a-round', although due to Covid restrictions I was unable to enter any buildings. I have attended a number of meetings this month relating to the Water park, the Northstowe support partnership, The Fenway's and it's exhibition to name a few. There certainly is a lot going on.

In the background, work is continuing with policy writing, including those pesky but necessary standing orders that we have all heard so much about recently and the recruitment pack for the Town Clerk. I am also arranging April meetings with the interim town council members meetings, as the interim arrangements will be in place until after the election.

South Cambs District Council are finalising the re-organisation order in readiness for 1st April 2021.

There are still a number of things to do, and I will be in touch with Libby to ensure a smooth handover, albeit I know the work with adjacent parish councils will be an important element of joint working on projects and mutual interests going forward.

Rosie Hughes
Interim Clerk Northstowe Town Council
2nd March 2021

clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk

From: Cllr Alex Malyon (SCambs - Longstanton) <cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 March 2021 10:26
To: H Stroude; Cllr Alex Malyon (SCambs - Longstanton)
Cc: Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (Scambs - Longstanton); Libby LPC CLerk; Dan delaMare-Lyon;
Subject: RE: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Dear Hilary

Please can you tell me where this suggestion has come from before I contact the Tree Officer again. I do not believe this to be the case, and it is certainly still be shown as a TPO area on the online maps, but I can verify this.

Kind regards

Alex

From: H Stroude
Sent: 03 March 2021 19:39
To: Cllr Alex Malyon (SCambs - Longstanton) <cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>
Cc: Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (Scambs - Longstanton) <cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>; Libby LPC CLerk <clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; Dan delaMare-Lyon

Subject: Re: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Alex,

It has been suggested that the approval of the planning permission submitted by the landowner in 2020 may have had the effect of removing the TPO from this area of woodland. I am sure that this is not the case or the Tree Officer would have made that clear in her reply to you. However, now that it has been suggested as a possible consequence of the planning approval this needs to be checked and verified.

Please can you investigate and let us know as soon as possible whether this is the case.

Many thanks,

Hilary

From: H Stroude
Sent: 03 March 2021 17:27
To: Cllr Alex Malyon (SCambs - Longstanton) <cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>
Cc: Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (Scambs - Longstanton) <cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>; Libby LPC CLerk <clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; Dan delaMare-Lyon ;

Subject: Re: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Alex,

There could well be grants available for tree-planting and it is worth looking into but the reality is that as long as the owner wants to get planning permission on the land, they will do nothing to improve the conservation status of the site. The only way that will happen is if SCDC rejects any application to add this land to a local land pool and make it clear to the owner that development of the site cannot happen.

However, SCDC does have an obligation to protect a TPO woodland and finding excuses for its continued degradation has to stop. The Tree Officer has ignored concerns expressed by local residents since we first raised this in 2019. It should not be for a SCDC Officer to decide on the future of a woodland in our village, particularly when they appear to take a contrary view to the local community. Ok the trees may not have been in the ideal situation but the owner requires a clear message - if he wants to fell trees as a management tool then replanting is part of that management process too. The tree officer can make these decisions for the future protection of this woodland and I am surprised that there is continued justification for the removal of so many trees from a TPO woodland. The owner is acting with impunity on this site and it would appear that the Tree Officer is turning a blind eye.

I hope that Longstanton Parish Council will put it on the record that they expect SCDC and the Tree Officer to take these proactive steps in future to ensure no further degradation of this woodland can occur. If Longstanton PC does not have a Tree Officer maybe the position can be reinstated so that trees with TPO's can be properly protected. It should not be the decision of the Tree Officer of SCDC whether there should or should not be a replanting condition placed on a permission to fell important trees in Longstanton.

Clearly Longstanton residents and LPC are going to have to fight to save this woodland because the SCDC Tree Officer is clearly not going to do it.

Many thanks for looking into this anyway,

Kind Regards,

Hilary

From: Cllr Alex Malyon (SCambs - Longstanton) <cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 March 2021 15:39

To: ; H Stroude

Cc: Cllr Malyon <Cllr.Malyon@scambs.gov.uk>; Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (Scambs - Longstanton) <cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>; Libby LPC CLerk <clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; Dan delaMare-Lyon

Subject: RE: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Dear All

I have had the below response from our Tree Officer at South Cambs, who says she know this area of woodland well.

In this case the decision was made not to impose a condition requiring replanting as it was felt that the trees in this woodland would not have done well- would have died or become stunted.

Unfortunately it seems that the landowner cannot be compelled to have a management plan for the woodland. I don't know whether there is anything we can do as a Parish and Councillors to work with them on this? I know this issue on the agenda for discussion at Monday's PC meeting. The officer also mentions the regular Tree Warden Network emails which are sent to the Parish, it may be worth looking at whether there are any grants available via this route.

Kind regards

Alex

Alexandra Malyon
Liberal Democrat District Councillor for Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick and Northstowe

Dear Cllr Malyon,

Thank you for your email.

I know the piece of land you are referring to well. Part of it is covered by the conservation area, part by TPO 0005 (2005) W1 and part by the both the conservation area and TPO.

The TPO on site is a woodland TPO and therefore is considered in a different manner to individuals, area or group TPOs. This is because woodland management differs to general arboriculture. It has different aims and different methodologies. This is partly because it uses different skills, techniques and equipment, and partly because woodland is more than trees, woodland is an environment where the biggest visual organism is the trees.

When considering an application relating to woodland, the authority has to grant consent so far as accords with good forestry practice unless it is satisfied that the granting of consent would fail to secure the maintenance of the special character of the woodland or the woodland character of the area.

This piece of land is a derelict tree nursery lot. It has no special character or designation but is a nice piece of canopy cover for the village, a quiet area for wildlife as there are no public rights of way through the site, greenery visible above the houses and perhaps most importantly now a contributing buffer between Longstanton and Northstowe. Therefore, any reasonable woodland work would be permitted.

The work applied for under 20/1489/TTPO relates more to safety work than woodland. However the area where ten stems are to be felled is a dense row of outgrown field stock ie when the tree nursery was left, the row of small saplings, which were small and numerous, were left to grow and never thinned out. This means in the intervening years they have become crowded, tall with a thinner stem than ideal. They have fought for the light through upward growth and become drawn up. There are also a significant amount of self-set trees as well. Overall the quality of the trees is very variable but there are no trees which are individually impressive, because of the age of the woodland and its history as a nursery. Within this row there are maidens and multistems, hence why the tree works specification uses the word stem instead of trees. The agent and I used this term specifically to pin down the scale of tree works.

Ideally this woodland would have a management plan which would thin the trees (ie remove stems, not thin as in a crown thin) to a level where light would reach the soil, to enhance the herb and understory layer but it is a microwood and clearly the owner does not want to go down this route. Woodland owners, currently, can not be compelled to create and adopt a management plan by any authority or organisation. However, the owner is managing his wood by having an arborist undertake and safety inspection and then undertake the recommended works. This is a rare and unusual step for this type of landowner and should be applauded. It also discharges his duty of care as a tree owner and managing the risk.

With regard to planting, TPO applications are often approved with conditions, and where trees are removed often (but not always) include replacement tree planting. It is not always appropriate to place a condition on a approval for replanting, especially in woodlands. If trees were planted in this woodland, they would either die or become stunted, ill formed trees. Please also bear in mind that this woodland needs more light to the soil as it is quite the thicket.

Every tree works case is assessed on its merits. Although it appears, and feels, like a tree work application factory as we manage over a thousand tree works cases a year, they are all assessed on an individual basis. Jay assesses them all to see if they are valid and include the right information. I look at each one to assess what it is, where and its merits. A case such as 20/1489/TTPO had this but also, and a site visit

from myself, then a conversation with the agent about the work an specification, the agent returning to site so he can provide additional clarity, then another conversation between myself and the agent, the agent amending the proposal, Jay and myself amending the application and determining it. We actually overran the eight week determination date, to make sure we got things just right.

If you would like more detail about TPO woodlands and applications, it is the same free web source as for a TPO information, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas#tree-preservation-orders--general>.

I would be hard pressed to give you one woodland resource as it is a very large subject. Cambridgeshire Libraries does not really cover this subject. The parish clerk receives the South Cambs Tree Warden Network emails and these often include woodland and farmland links to grants, resources and interesting websites. You never know what will spark and we have a diverse district with all sorts of interested landowners and groups. As the clerks are often a knowledge hub within a village, they can then distribute the email or information to whomever they think may be interested in an item. I love to hear that one of these emails has sparked something, a project or piece of work in one of the villages.

I do hope this has answered your questions. Let me know if it has not.

Regards,

Miriam Hill | Trees Officer

From:

Sent: 02 March 2021 17:31

To: H Stroude

Cc: Cllr Malyon <Cllr.Malyon@scambs.gov.uk>; Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (Scambs - Longstanton) <cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>; Libby LPC CLerk <clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; Dan delaMare-Lyon

Subject: Re: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Dear Hilary

We share your concerns regarding the woodland adjacent to our property and agree it is being subjected to systematic degradation over time.

We also share your concerns reference the replanting, would like to understand if this was taken into consideration by the SCDC officer when examining the application for the felling permission?

Kind regards

On Thu, Feb 25, 2021 at 4:18 PM H Stroude

wrote:

Dear All,

Last week I was litter picking in the Manor Farm paddocks on behalf of Stephen Wright and that meant being able to get a view of the rear of this piece of protected woodland. I was concerned by the amount of work that had clearly taken place on site with yet again more trees being felled and removed.

Co-incidentally last night I was looking through some planning applications on the SCDC website and I came across an application for felling of trees in this woodland. On the application there was a list of trees to be felled and the comment that these trees were not naturally planted but were originally a man-made nursery of trees that had been left to go wild. This comment was clearly designed to undermine the status of this woodland area and to justify the felling of trees. It is not a problem for trees to overhand other properties unless of course they were in danger of falling but that is unlikely to be the case unless neighbours had complained. If neighbours had expressed concern, then I would assume that there would be evidence for that. In addition, many of the trees are pine and in this local area pine woodland is rare and provides a very specific and important habitat that needs to be protected and retained. There are some species that will only be found in pine woodland of this sort.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 20/1489/TTPO | |
| Application Received | Thu 18 Jun 2020 |
| Application Validated | Thu 18 Jun 2020 |
| Address | Land Behind No 57 - 67 Opp No 53 Belonging To 53BU |
| Proposal | Woodland TPO 0005 (2005) W1: Row of Pines (G2) - fell four pines in the group that no55 or over the field. Silver Birch (T3) - fell as a signification proportion of Ash trees (T4, T5, T6) - fell as all have a significant Maples (T7, T8, T9, T10, T11) - fell ten stems which towards, neighbouring gardens (any stems leaning will not be touched). (Amended) |
| Status | Decided |
| Decision | Granted Permission |
| Decision Issued Date | Tue 25 Aug 2020 |

You can see from the above summary above that this application was to fell 18 trees!! If this continues there will simply be no woodland left on this site. I have not looked at this planning application decision to see if any replanting was stipulated as a condition of the approval but if not, the constant degradation of this TPO site is becoming of great concern. Evidence from past planning applications makes it clear that the owner of this land and No 53 Woodside (developer of The Orchards on Woodside) wants to develop the site and there is no reason to believe that this is no longer the case. The constant felling of trees on this land and the failure to require replanting is putting this area of trees at risk. This simply should not be the case with TPO's in place. There is a real danger that this piece of protected woodland (natural or man-made) is close to the point of no return. Has there been any monitoring to ensure that only the approved trees were felled? A planning permission of this sort can be used to cover up additional and unauthorised work. To allow the felling of 18 trees in a TPO woodland without a requirement for replanting should not be possible.

Please can SCDC Conservation Officers and Longstanton Parish Council consider making any further permissions for work on this site subject to strict replanting criteria?. If the land is destined to be kept as woodland then there is simply no alternative. Aerial photos taken of this land will show the continued damage to this woodland area and why it is being allowed to happen when there are TPO's in place, is hard to understand.

I hope that you will be able to take this into consideration and make a note on your various files that this woodland is under severe threat.

Many thanks,

Hilary

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This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived

From: Cllr Alex Malyon (SCambs - Longstanton) <cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 March 2021 15:29
To: Planning Trees; Cllr Alex Malyon (South Cambs - Longstanton)
Cc: Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (South Cambs - Longstanton); clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk
Subject: RE: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Dear Miriam

Thank you very much for this extremely helpful and thorough response. We appreciate that the application for this most reason work was well considered and it is reassuring to know you are familiar with the wood. I will pass on this information to the Parish Council and the residents who have raised this issue.

Many thanks

Alex

From: Planning Trees <Planning.Trees@scambs.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 March 2021 09:24
To: Cllr Alex Malyon (South Cambs - Longstanton) <Cllr.Malyon@scambs.gov.uk>
Cc: Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (South Cambs - Longstanton) <Cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>; clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk
Subject: RE: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Dear Cllr Malyon,

Thank you for your email.

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This piece of land is a derelict tree nursery lot. It has no special character or designation but is a nice piece of canopy cover for the village, a quiet area for wildlife as there are no public rights of way through the site, greenery visible above the houses and perhaps most importantly now a contributing buffer between Longstanton and Northstowe. Therefore, any reasonable woodland work would be permitted.

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self-set trees as well. Overall the quality of the trees is very variable but there are no trees which are individually impressive, because of the age of the woodland and its history as a nursery. Within this row there are maidens and multistems, hence why the tree works specification uses the word stem instead of trees. The agent and I used this term specifically to pin down the scale of tree works.

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I do hope this has answered your questions. Let me know if it has not.

Regards,

Miriam Hill | Trees Officer



GREATER CAMBRIDGE
SHARED PLANNING

t: 03450 450 500

e: planning.trees@scams.gov.uk

www.scams.gov.uk/planning/

www.cambridge.gov.uk/planning

Find answers to [trees and hedgerow](#) questions on the councils website and use the [mapping system](#) to search for TPO's and conservation areas.

From: Cllr Alex Malyon (SCambs - Longstanton) <cldr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>

Sent: 01 March 2021 14:46

To: Planning Trees <Planning.Trees@scambs.gov.uk>

Cc: Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (South Cambs - Longstanton) <Cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

We would be grateful for advice regarding the below enquiry.

Many thanks

Alex

Alexandra Malyon

Liberal Democrat District Councillor for Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick and Northstowe

From: Cllr Alex Malyon (SCambs - Longstanton)

Sent: 01 March 2021 14:43

To: 'Hill Miriam' <Miriam.Hill@greatercambridgeplanning.org>

Cc: 'Cllr Sarah Cheung Johnson' <cldr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Dear Miriam

20/1489/TTPO

I was wondering whether you could advise regarding the below enquiry from a resident. They have raised concerns regarding the removal of trees from an area of woodland in the Longstanton conservation area. Is there a requirement for replanting where TPO trees are removed?

Many thanks

Alex

Alexandra Malyon

Liberal Democrat District Councillor for Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick and Northstowe

From: H Stroude <hilarystroude@hotmail.co.uk>

Sent: 01 March 2021 14:16

To: Libby LPC CLerk <clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; Cllr delaMare-Lyon <cldr.delamare-lyon@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; Cllr Sarah Cheung Johnson <cldr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>; Cllr Alex Malyon <cldr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>

Subject: Fw: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Dear All,

Further to my email re the woodland behind Woodside I would like to bring Harrison's email to your attention. I have also received phone calls from other concerned residents, one of whom has said that if trees under a TPO are felled then replanting should be mandatory and an automatic condition of any approval.

Please can someone confirm what is the situation is regarding this woodland and its lack of preservation. It is obvious from just walking along Woodside and in the paddock that this wood is on the point of no return and we want to know why this is being allowed to happen. TPO's are very serious protective instruments and it appears that the protections being offered to this particular woodland are being deliberately disregarded. Who is responsible for not enforcing the TPO and why?

Kind Regards,

Hilary

From:

Sent: 26 February 2021 18:02

To: H Stroude

Subject: Re: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Dear Hilary,

Thanks for your report on the wood lot. I have been concerned about it for several months. As I survey the area behind my fence I see that 10-15 trees have been felled in the last several months. In some cases the trunks have been sawn into fire-place logs. But most of the trees are just lying there. No evidence of any re-planting.

In addition, I had a note attached to my gate, which leads to the lot, snarling at me for adding my own cut branches to his brush pile (something common in my home country). My gardener was also depositing grass cuttings to the pile. The note complained that I even had a gate leading to his property. He (a Parker grandchild it seems) advised me I must remove it. I called him, ate humble pie for the branches and cuttings and assured him I had no intention of removing the gate, although I did remove the offending deposits I had left there.

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I'd say, "Full speed ahead!" Let me know if I can add any impetus.

Sincerely,
Harrison

Sent from my iPad

On 25 Feb 2021, at 16:18, H Stroude wrote:

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Last week I was litter picking in the Manor Farm paddocks on behalf of Stephen Wright and that meant being able to get a view of the rear of this piece of protected woodland. I was concerned by the amount of work that had clearly taken place on site with yet again more trees being felled and removed.

Co-incidentally last night I was looking through some planning applications on the SCDC website and I came across an application for felling of trees in this woodland. On the application there was a list of trees to be felled and the comment that these trees were not naturally planted but were originally a man-made nursery of trees that had been left to go wild. This comment was clearly designed to undermine the status of this woodland area and to justify the felling of trees. It is not a problem for trees to overhand other properties unless of course they were in danger of falling but that is unlikely to be the case unless neighbours had complained. If neighbours had expressed concern, then I would assume that there would be evidence for that. In addition, many of the trees are pine and in this local area pine woodland is rare and provides a very specific and important habitat that needs to be protected and retained. There are some species that will only be found in pine woodland of this sort.

| | |
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| Application Received | Thu 18 Jun 2020 |
| Application Validated | Thu 18 Jun 2020 |
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| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Status | Decided |
| Decision | Granted Permission |
| Decision Issued Date | Tue 25 Aug 2020 |

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Please can SCDC Conservation Officers and Longstanton Parish Council consider making any further permissions for work on this site subject to strict replanting criteria?. If the land is destined to be kept as woodland then there is simply no alternative. Aerial photos taken of this land will show the continued damage to this woodland area and why it is being allowed to happen when there are TPO's in place, is hard to understand.

I hope that you will be able to take this into consideration and make a note on your various files that this woodland is under severe threat.

Many thanks,

Hilary

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This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived

From: H Stroude
Sent: 02 March 2021 13:46
To: Cllr Alex Malyon (SCambs - Longstanton); clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk
Cc: 'Cllr delaMare-Lyon'; 'Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (Scambs - Longstanton)'
Subject: Re: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

This might

help https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/14956/tposguide.pdf

Tree Preservation Orders: A Guide to the Law and Good Practice - GOV.UK

Preface When the modern planning system was established under the Town and Country Planning Act 1947 local planning authorities retained their powers to protect trees ...

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk

The important fact is the rules relates to the area of trees covered by a TPO. Conservation area rules for trees is something different. In this case, this is not a TPO for a few individual specimen trees - this is a TPO to protect a woodland. By definition a woodland needs to have a number of trees left standing in it. The problem with the wood now is that the extent of the degradation is being masked by all the brush that has been left in piles across the wood. To get a proper idea of what tree cover is left this brush should be removed and dead and fallen trees removed under supervision. Degradation of woodland can also be passive - lack of management can be just as damaging and it is clear that the wood requires pro-active management if it is to be protected for the long term.

There are some definitions below:

A **woodland** is a habitat where trees are the dominant plant form. The individual tree canopies generally overlap and interlink, often forming a more or less continuous canopy which shades the ground to varying degrees.

Woodlands have a more open canopy (30 to 100 percent cover), and their sparse, woody mid-story allows more sunlight to reach the ground.

Hilary

From: Cllr Alex Malyon (SCambs - Longstanton) <cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 March 2021 12:36

To: clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk <clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; 'H Stroude'

Cc: 'Cllr delaMare-Lyon' <cllr.delamare-lyon@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; 'Cllr Alex Malyon' <cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>; 'Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (Scambs - Longstanton)'

<cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Dear Libby

I have been told previously by our Tree Officer that the best way to view the TPO info is online, you can search by postcode and select TPOs on the community map.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/search-by-map/>.

I am still waiting for a response regarding the requirement for replanting where trees are felled in a conservation area but will let you know as soon as I hear back.

Kind regards

Alex

Alexandra Malyon

Liberal Democrat District Councillor for Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick and Northstowe

From: clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk <clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 March 2021 11:35

To: 'H Stroude'

Cc: 'Cllr delaMare-Lyon' <cllr.delamare-lyon@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; 'Cllr Alex Malyon' <cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>; 'Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (Scambs - Longstanton)' <cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Thank you.

Alex/Sarah – please can you continue to see if these maps have been updated.

--

Libby White BEM FdA PSLCC

Parish Clerk - Longstanton Parish Council

(Pronouns she/her) [Why have I included this?](#)

The Parish Office, Longstanton Village Hall, 24 High Street, Longstanton, Cambridge, CB24 3BS

T: 01954 782323 M: 07397 272 969 W: www.longstanton-pc.gov.uk

Office Hours: Monday to Friday – 11am til 2pm

From: H Stroude

Sent: 02 March 2021 11:33

To: clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk

Cc: Cllr delaMare-Lyon <cllr.delamare-lyon@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; Cllr Alex Malyon <cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>; 'Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (Scambs - Longstanton)' <cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Libby,

Please find attached a copy of the TPO map for the woodland we are talking about. This was sent over to me from SCDC when we raised our concerns over tree felling on site in 2019.

Hope this helps,

Kind Regards

Hilary

From: clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk <clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 March 2021 11:26
To: Cllr Alex Malyon <cldr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>; 'Cllr Sarah CheungJohnson (Scambs - Longstanton)' <cldr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>
Cc: Cllr delaMare-Lyon <cldr.delamare-lyon@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; Hilary Stroude
Subject: FW: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Dear Alex and Sarah

I am not working in the office and, therefore, do not have access to look at the maps showing the TPOs in Longstanton. Would you be kind enough to check with Miriam and team if there is an area on the SCDC website where it shows the areas with TPOs? If not, please can someone forward the maps to me. I recall that when speaking with the tree officer some time ago, the maps were due to be updated as they were extremely old.

For your information I am putting this on the agenda for Monday so would appreciate having the information by Thursday this week (I am off Friday).

Kind regards

--

Libby White BEM FdA PSLCC

Parish Clerk - Longstanton Parish Council

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From: H Stroude
Sent: 01 March 2021 15:35
To: Cllr Alex Malyon (SCambs - Longstanton) <cldr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>
Cc: Cllr Sarah Cheung Johnson <cldr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>; Libby LPC CLerk <clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; Cllr delaMare-Lyon <cldr.delamare-lyon@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Alex,

Thank you for coming back to me and of course I understand that you have an interest in this issue.

You are right in saying that the woodland with its pine trees is a unique habitat in Longstanton and the reports of badgers, gold-finches and deer etc living/ using the wood continue. If the owners have submitted this woodland in a recent Local Plan call for sites then their intentions are clear, and they simply cannot be allowed to destroy the conservation value of the site and make the TPO designation a travesty.

As you know concerns were raised a while back by myself and others over works being carried out on site and our concerns were dismissed by SCDC officers. Since then, we have had the planning application I outlined previously. This is concerning - the planning process cannot be used by the owner to legitimise the piece-meal destruction of this woodland. I think it is not unreasonable to state that any further works on this land, whether legitimate or not, can no longer be justified and the SCDC tree officer needs to take robust action to ensure the woods preservation. I hope that the Parish Council will be supportive of a proactive stance also.

SCDC officers have an obligation to protect conservation area habitats and TPO sites particularly where they confer important habit status. If the TPO regulations meant that historic works should have insisted on replanting, then perhaps a requirement can be made retrospectively.

Kind Regards,

Hilary

From: Cllr Alex Malyon (SCambs - Longstanton) <cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>

Sent: 01 March 2021 14:42

To: H Stroude ; Libby LPC CLerk <clerk@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; Cllr delaMare-Lyon <cllr.delamare-lyon@longstanton-pc.gov.uk>; Cllr Sarah Cheung Johnson <cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk>; Cllr Alex Malyon <cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: TPO Woodland behind Woodside opposite and owned by No 53 Woodside

Dear Hilary

I will forward your concerns to our Tree Officer at SCDC to see if she can advise regarding re-planting where trees with a TPO are felled.

I will declare an interest in this issue at this woodland backs onto my property. Some of the trees that were cutback were overhanging mine and neighbours properties and needed some work but like you I would like to see this woodland preserved and protected as it provides some valuable habitat- I believe for example that there were buzzards nesting in one of the pines directly behind my property.

I understand the owners of the land have aspirations to develop it and did submit it as a site in the recent Local Plan call for sites, though this does not of course give it any planning status.

Kind regards

Alex

Alexandra Malyon

Liberal Democrat District Councillor for Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick and Northstowe

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[<cllr.malyon@scambbs.gov.uk>](mailto:cllr.malyon@scambbs.gov.uk)

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Many thanks,

Hilary

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County Councilor report February 2021

Highways**Brookfield Drive and Ladywalk Re-surfacing**

This is due to start on Thursday 4th March weather permitting for Micro Asphalt Surface Treatment. Whilst the work is in progress, during operational hours, the road may be closed from 07.30am to 6pm, and vehicular access will be restricted. Access to properties within the closure area will be possible, but are subject to working conditions, and delays may be expected. Crews will be working in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines. These works are weather dependent, and changes are possible at short notice.

The potholes on Rampton Rd have been inspected and marked up and should be repaired within the next few days.

Also, I have asked for the High Street to be crack filled and the traffic calming resurfaced. This hopefully should be completed within the next few months.

Covid-19 update.

The last two infection rate figures for comparison. Although it all reads very encouraging, this is due to both lockdown and vaccination data coming through. However, rates are still fairly high, and it has not gone away nor will it. We still need to adhere to the advice on social distancing and stay at home as much as possible. Hopefully if all goes to plan, the 21st June get out of jail date, will still happen as planned, but this date is not set in stone and as always it will depend on peoples behavior over the next few months.

Covid-19 Epidemiology for week ending 26th February 2021

| | Average weekly cases per 100,000 population ending 19th Feb with the week ending 26th Feb) | Rate of change (comparing week |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| England | 91 | -24% |
| East of England | 75 | -23% |
| Cambridgeshire | 89 | -12% |
| Cambridge | 71 | +9% |
| East Cambs | 57 | -20% |
| Fenland | 195 | -7% |
| Hunts | 95 | -25% |
| South Cambs | 50 | -5% |
| Peterborough | 196 | -28% |

Average daily deaths within 28 days of a positive test (average over one week to 26th Feb)

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Cambridgeshire | 2.1 |
| Peterborough | 0.3 |

National rankings

Peterborough 4th and Fenland 5th in England for all-age case rates per 100,000.

Neither Peterborough nor Fenland is in the highest 20 local authorities for case rates among people aged 60+

Covid-19 Epidemiology for week ending 25th February 2021

| | Average weekly cases per 100,000 population ending 18th Feb with the week ending 25th Feb) | Rate of change (comparing week |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| England | 97 | -21% |
| East of England | 79 | -23% |
| Cambridgeshire | 92 | -10% |
| Cambridge | 68 | -14% |
| East Cambs | 56 | -25% |
| Fenland | 214 | +9% |

| | | |
|---|-----|------|
| Hunts | 98 | -22% |
| South Cambs | 46 | -17% |
| Peterborough | 210 | -23% |
| Average daily deaths within 28 days of a positive test (average over one week to 16th Feb) | | |
| Cambridgeshire | 2.6 | |
| Peterborough | 0.4 | |

County Council Budget

Cambridgeshire County Council pledged to fund improvements to footpaths and roads as the annual budget was passed. The council voted through a £660.3million budget for the 2021-22 financial year with an increase of around £47.3million – or 7.7 per cent – compared to last year’s budget, for county services, which include schools, social care, public health, highways, libraries, waste disposal and recycling. An example of some of the new extra spending which is **on top of existing budgets is:**

- £20million extra in footpath maintenance with half on surface treatments, such as footway repairs, and the other half on deeper treatments, such as resurfacing and reconstruction. This is in addition to the current £1.3million annual budget for footpath maintenance.
- £2.73million extra in measures to prevent flooding and improve local biodiversity, including rapid gully/drain clearing, better verge maintenance on rural roads avoiding peak flowering times, plus initiatives to provide both active and practical support for local communities to address flooding.
- £6.97million to reconstruct the B1050 Shelfords Road at Willingham. The council said this road had been a longstanding concern for a number of years. A busy route crossing the River Ouse, it is the main commuter route from the Fens towards Cambridge and the A14. While “significant work” has been undertaken to keep it serviceable, the council said “historic construction destabilised by poor ground conditions” means full reconstruction is needed to prevent its eventual closure.

Council Tax will rise by 1.9%, and the Adult Social Care Precept will rise by 1% giving a total increase of 2.9%.

Self-isolation support

Self-isolation support totalling almost £1million helping residents reduce spread of Covid-19 - Almost £1million has been awarded to residents across Cambridgeshire to support them to self-isolate and reduce the spread of Covid-19. Since the scheme launched last October, almost 2,000 claims from people requesting financial support to self-isolate have been approved totalling £996,500. The scheme was due to expire at the end of February but has been extended until the end of June to allow the County Council to continue supporting everyone who needs assistance to self-isolate. It has also been expanded to include parents who need to have time off work to look after a child who is self-isolating. Parents will be able to apply for this support soon and further details will be provided by in due course.

Hundreds of families across Cambridgeshire have been supported to self-isolate since the financial scheme launched last October and it is great news that this support will continue. For some people, financial assistance is the only way they feel able to self-isolate when needed, which is why the scheme is so vital. Rates are reducing in most parts of Cambridgeshire, but to ensure that trend continues we have to make sure we all continue to self-isolate when asked to by NHS Test and Trace. There is no better way to break the chain of transmission. There is light at the end of the tunnel, but we can only reach that light if people continue to self-isolate when they are told to.

This support includes:

- one-off payment of £500 if they lose income as a result of not being able to work. This payment can be made available on multiple occasions if a person comes into contact with people who test positive a second or even third time
- For anyone not eligible for the government support – a local discretionary fund which offers financial support to make sure people don't suffer financially.

To be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme people must meet **all** the following criteria:

- have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive
- they are employed or self-employed
- they cannot work from home and will lose income as a result
- they are claiming at least one of the following benefits: Universal Credit, Working Tax Credits, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit or Housing Benefit.
- If they do not receive one of the above benefits they may still be eligible for a discretionary payment if they are going to suffer financial hardship by isolating.

NHS Test and Trace ID number, bank statement, and proof of employment or self-assessment returns will need to be provided.

Details of both schemes are available at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Schools prepare re-opening on March 8

Schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are preparing to re-open their doors on March 8. Director for Education for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Jonathan Lewis, held a session with around 400 school staff to go through the latest Government guidance and answer any questions in order to facilitate a smooth return. There will be additional help to support the COVID testing process. Children will do three tests at school, followed by home testing. Test and trace will continue. The number of positive cases in schools last term was relatively low, helped by good ventilation and schools' rigorous approach to cleaning. There have been some small changes since last term but headteachers have been advised as to what they need to do differently, including guidance around face coverings. Guidance is still emerging on examinations and testing. The County Council recognises this is a difficult time for students and will be sharing this guidance as soon as possible.

Headteachers, staff, governors and education officers have done an extraordinary job in keeping our children educated in what has been an intensely challenging time. Children have suffered a lot less because of the care, commitment and support of all the staff.

Peter Hudson
County Councillor
Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick, and Over

The Parish Clerk
Longstanton Parish Council
High Street
Longstanton

Dear Clerk

LONGSTANTON HATTONS CHARITY

Would you please arrange to have this letter of resignation of the Clerk and Trustees of the Hatton Charity put on the Agenda of the next Parish Council meeting for action by the Council.

Following the death of Trustee Mrs Carol Collis late last year and due to the boundary changes for Northstowe, this has meant that Mrs Patricia Sheridan of Station Road will soon become a resident of Willingham and thus will not be eligible to continue in her role as Trustee of the Charity. The remaining Trustee Mrs Sylvia Hicks and Clerk Mrs Ann Meadows have decided it would be an appropriate time to stand down and make way for perhaps younger residents of Longstanton who may have fresh ideas, to take over.

The Charity has two reliable tenants working the land and the finances are in a healthy position

All records, including the accounts etc will be handed over to the Parish Council before the Annual Parish Meeting 2021.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ann Meadows

Mrs Sylvia Hicks

Mrs Patricia Sheridan

Date: 9 February 2021

Appendix 6

Practitioners Conference 2021

23rd – 25th February 2021

Following the welcome and presentation of certificates to those who had completed Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 in the Community Governance training, including myself, there followed many sessions spread over 3 days (normally two when in person) designed to be relevant to all levels of parish and town councils.

Listed below are the sessions I attended with a brief overview of what was learned.

Responsible Investment - CCLA

The session covered an overview of how CCLA works on behalf of parish and town councils, how they decide where to invest the money, how they have done over the last 12 months considering Covid-19 (receive 98% of the rent due to them) and where they are looking to invest going forward. They noted that they do not invest in any banks which have been embroiled in any scandals such as Danske Bank who were done for money laundering in 2017. They have been working more with companies who are looking to deliver change in the workplace in respect to mental health. When they look to invest the money the key areas they look at are: modern slavery, mental health, governance and climate change.

Parish and Town Toolkit

SLCC have recently been working on updating the Parish and Town Toolkit which was last updated in 2009 and made available through District Councils. It has now been updated, launched via the SLCC website and open for comment. This resource sits along side the Arnold Baker book on legislation, the Clerk's manual and the Local Council's Explained publications.

Northampton Town Council – the Story so Far

An update from Richard Walden the Interim Clerk for Northampton Town Council. He is the equivalent of Rosie at Northstowe. The new town council will be the largest in England. It has been created following the problems with Northamptonshire County Council a few years ago and the implementation of Unitary Authorities. Unlike Northstowe, lots of assets to transfer over including the Guildhall, staff, etc.

Managing Burial Ground Memorials

An overview of how a burial authority manages memorials was provided in this hour long session. It did not cover everything. It was explicitly noted that testing the stability of memorials should only be done by someone who has received specific training. Owners of memorials need to be informed of their responsibilities when they purchase a memorial. Insurers need to be notified when inspections of headstones are being undertaken for their records. From this session I would recommend that LPC join the ICCM (Institute of Cemeteries and Crematoria Management) for access to advice and professionals as and when needed.

Creating Positive Content for Social Media and Managing Negativity

A really useful session providing guidance on how to keep residents looking at the social media posted by the parish council, keeping it relevant, positive (where possible) and managing expectations. Suggested sharing more images and videos and open up conversation online.

Unleashing Community Power

This session was run by a ex Sector Inspector for Dorset Police. He had been informed that there was an area of the town he was assigned to which was a problem. Residents of the area were adamant that there was no problem there and that they had a vibrant community. The talk described how the police and council worked together to get to know the community, find out what the problems were to make other residents outside the area believe there were issues and to work on them. 10 years later there is an active group which meets monthly, has supported residents during lockdown, helped design and build a playground, coffee mornings, litter picks and community skip days.

Diversity – Not Black and White

This presentation was talked about our unconscious bias and how our brain sees ‘outsiders’ as threats. Looking at equality which is a human core need and how we are hard wired to want it and how a glimmer of injustice makes us angry. It was suggested that all policies be reviewed to ensure that they are open and diverse, including ensuring that the Equality Policy is current and reflects the current time.

The Use and Abuse of Information Rights

An overview of Data Protection, GDPR and FOI legislation and how it works along side the Transparency Codes. The Solicitor from Wilkin Chapman summarised many areas where the council needs to ensure that they are complying with areas such as accessibility, bullying, harassment and vexatious requests. He was very clear that the website should be used to share as much information as possible to lessen the number of requests the council may get (which is what LPC does – as much as practical).

Attracting new Councillors to make a Change to Local Communities

Chris Borg from NALC chaired this session suggesting that the most important attributes of a Cllr are:

- Active in the community;
- Care about the community
- They make the council accessible to their community

He suggested that when looking for new members the existing members and officers approach existing groups in the community i.e. WI, MumsNet, Local Businesses as they have already got an interest in the community. He reiterated that though the Clerk can encourage people to stand, they are not allowed to campaign on a cllr’s behalf, behave politically or treat any candidates differently. Suggested to ‘BIG up’ the Council and what it does.

Finance – Getting Ready for Year End

This was a useful presentation reminding officers of the forthcoming timetable for year end, what paperwork needs completion and publishing.

Accessibility in Office: Fundamentals when Creating Word and Excel Documents

I have to be honest this was probably the most useful session I attended. I believed that the documents produced were accessible to a large proportion of residents. But there is much, MUCH more that we should be doing to meet the guidelines in place. The session was an hour with half of that time devoted to questions meaning that there was only about 15minutes on Word and Excel. I have, therefore, booked on two Webinars both 1 hour 30 minutes to ensure our Word and Excel documents are accessible to all. Each webinar costs £30 + VAT.

Final Session – Motivational Speaker

The closing session was a speech by a motivational transgender speaker. He was honest and engaging to speak to attendees about diversity and inclusion; change and resilience and how to provide a sense of belonging. He was amazing and a true inspiration.