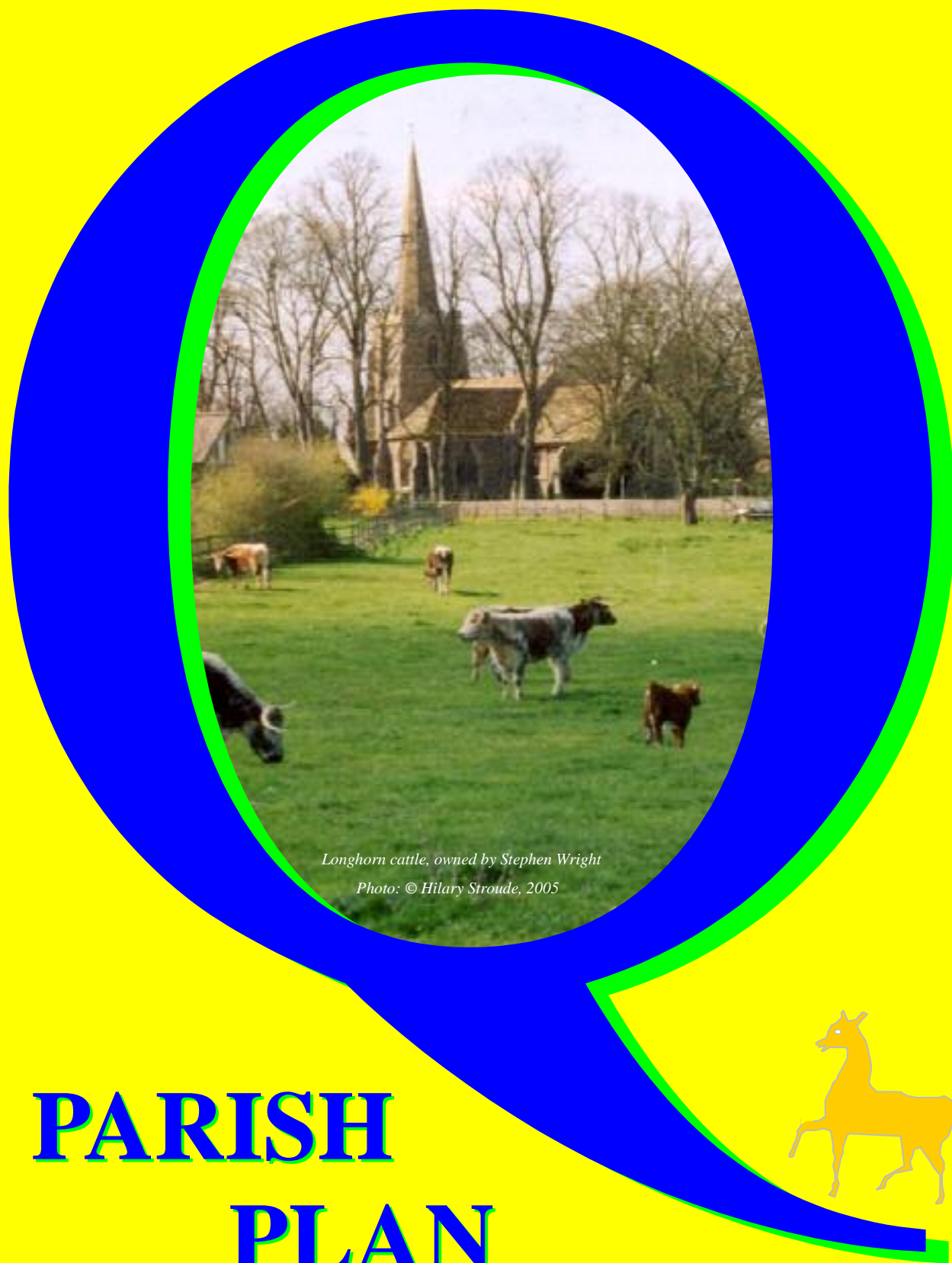


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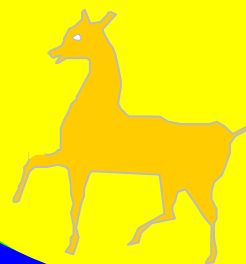
# LONGSTANTON



*Longhorn cattle, owned by Stephen Wright*

*Photo: © Hilary Stroude, 2005*

## PARISH PLAN



2005 – 2015

## LONGSTANTON PARISH PLAN



I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with this project in one way or another. Our distributors and collectors need a special thank you for giving up their free time to help us. I would also like to thank all the Committee members, past and present, and our analyst,

Dr Kathy McVittie, who has produced a massive technical report and given expert support with the production of the questionnaire and this booklet. The Parish Council have been extremely supportive, providing early funding to get this project started, while our two PC liaison officers, Cllr Willie Felger and Cllr Peter Summerfield, gave us their full backing working with us as a team. A big thank you must go to our previous Parish Clerk, Eric Smith, for his help and guidance: we have received financial help from South Cambridgeshire District Council in the form of a grant of £2000. Bill Johnston worked very hard obtaining donations from the business community and, with the aid of Alex Riley, from the developers of Home farm and the future Northstowe. Stan Rees from ACRE has given us constant support and advice. Hilary Stroude provided a valuable historical contribution and the Collis family kindly gave us an insight into their family history.

This project began in March 2004 with a steering group of four which had increased to eight by May 2004. The questionnaire was distributed in July 2004 and by April 2005 the 90 page technical report, the summary report and a draft of the action plan were displayed at the Annual Parish Meeting. This has been very hard but rewarding work and is a tremendous effort for

such a small team working on a very tight budget to stringent deadlines.

In Autumn 2004 we participated in the SCDC Local Development Framework Consultation process, submitting 47 responses from your questionnaire results, as well as submitting further representations last July. We have had an input into the CROW survey (Cambridgeshire Rights of Way) and two of our group attended the Northstowe workshop held at Bar Hill on 15 January 2005. The Committee has developed valuable and helpful contacts with councillors and officers of South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.

Informal social gatherings were organised which stimulated a great deal of interest for the village and its future; these included the footpath walk over Christmas 2004 followed by mince pies and mulled wine at the Village Institute.

The next stage is for the Parish Council to formally adopt the Action Plan and then appoint a Steering Group chosen from the wider community and village organizations to help take on this project: there are some minor and major issues to be considered and implemented and I hope that you will involve yourself in the decision making process.

Last, but not least, I am indebted to Françoise Close, our Secretary and Tony Cowley, our Publication Officer, both of whom have shown unfailing commitment to this project.

Sylvia Hicks

Chairman, Longstanton Parish Plan Committee



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

**Andrew Lansley**  
**CBE MP**  
(South  
Cambridgeshire)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words about the Longstanton Parish Plan.

A Parish Plan is a very valuable document in identifying and guiding decisions over policies and services. In Longstanton's particular situation, with proposed substantial building developments both in and adjacent to the village, and the redevelopment of the A14, this Plan will be an especially important reference document. I applaud the efforts of those who have produced the Plan and I am sure it will be much appreciated by residents and other local bodies.



## THE WAY FORWARD



I am delighted to welcome this first Parish Plan for Longstanton. It contains a wealth of information about what you think about your village and what improvements you would like to see. Not surprisingly the new developments at Home

Farm and Northstowe feature strongly, especially your concern about the ability of your village to maintain its own identity and sense of community. Your views on your village will help the parish, district and county councils, as well as other agencies, plan the

services that you think are important both now and in the years to come.

I would like to thank those who have worked hard to put the plan together, particularly the Chairman Sylvia Hicks, Secretary, Françoise Close and Publication Officer, Tony Cowley; I hope that this will provide a sound basis as the community continues to develop in the future.



Shona Johnstone  
County Councillor for Longstanton

## CHALLENGE FOR EVERYONE



It is a great pleasure for me to write this foreword to the final Report of the Longstanton Parish Plan. A Parish Plan is considered to be a useful thing for a community undergoing change. If any community can be considered to be

“undergoing change”, then surely it is Longstanton! Until recently we were a village of some 500 homes. Then over 300 ex-army houses were sold off. Now we have a huge housing development of at least 500 homes happening on the Home Farm site. That represents a near trebling of our size in just a few years. Add Northstowe into the equation and the challenges faced by us are indeed daunting.

It is quite an achievement that this Parish Plan happened at all, given that the initial promise of external funding was subsequently withdrawn.

The Parish Council agreed to fund the shortfall rather than let the whole project lapse, but the Parish Plan Committee has not only managed to produce a complex report, they have also managed to do it on a shoestring. Furthermore, they have been very resourceful in securing sponsorship, thus minimising the need for funding from the Parish Council. The small group of people responsible for this Report deserve our congratulations.

There is much of interest in the pages that follow, but the Parish Plan is not an end in itself. It is the use that we, as villagers, make of this information that really determines whether the Parish Plan will have served a useful purpose. That is a challenge for everyone who lives in Longstanton.



Alex Riley  
Chairman, Longstanton Parish Council  
District Councillor for Longstanton

# WHAT IS A PARISH PLAN?

The concept of Parish and Town Plans led to the Secretary of State for the Environment to announce the 'Vital Villages Initiative' in 2001. A Parish Plan looks at the community and says how the residents of the community would like it to develop. 'Eyes and ears' for the Parish Plan proposals were provided by the Questionnaire, the results of the analysis provide the objectives.

## CONTENTS

Forewords	2,3
Longstanton - Spiritual Home for National War Hero	5
Longstanton - Family Home for Four Generations	5

### PAST - Ancient & Recent

Long Stanton Ancient Past	6,7
Long Stanton Recent Past	8,9,10

### PRESENT - Questionnaire Results Summarised

1. Introduction	11
2. Residency	12
3. Education	12
4. Employment	13
5. Parking, Road Safety and Transport in Longstanton	14
6. Housing, Healthcare and Personal Safety	16
7. Village Services	17
8. Local Government Representation	21
9. Environment and Village Landscape Amenities	22
10. Transport to and from Longstanton	23
Existing entry into Longstanton and landmarks - soon to change	24, 25

Longstanton Village Map	26,27
-------------------------	-------

### FUTURE - Questionnaire Results Summarised

1. Home Farm	28
2. Northstowe	29
3. Water Management in Longstanton	29

Longstanton Parish Plan - Proposals	30,31,32,33
-------------------------------------	-------------

Views of Longstanton landmarks - in process of change	34
---	----

Additional Comments	35, 36,37,38
---------------------	--------------

Acknowledgements	39
------------------	----

Conservation Areas – Our Link to the Past	40
---	----

# Longstanton - Spiritual Home for National War Hero

## Charles Lofthouse OBE, DFC (1921 - 2002)

As a pilot in the RAF, Charles Lofthouse took part in the WWII bombing campaign over Germany, and later served in numerous postings, both at home and abroad.

He enlisted into the RAF in the Spring of 1940 and after being awarded his pilots wings he was posted to 149 Sqdn flying Wellingtons from Mildenhall. Awarded the DFC after 37 Ops, he was rested and posted to 1651 HCU at Waterbeach. One night in November 1942, he was acting as night duty pilot in the control tower when a Stirling crash landed on the runway. Running out to the burning aircraft and ignoring exploding ammunition Lofthouse managed to drag out five men and for this act of bravery he was awarded an OBE.

In June 1943, as a Sqdn/Ldr, he was posted to 7 Sqdn to become OC B flight at Oakington, flying Lancasters as part of the Pathfinder Force. He flew 5 Ops to Hamburg which became known as the 'firestorm raids' and on August 17th to Peenemunde, during the latter acting as back-up to Gp/Cpt John Searby, of 83 Sqdn the raids master bomber. On



Charles Lofthouse OBE, DFC

August 23rd, Lofthouse was over Berlin when he was shot down - all the crew surviving and becoming POW's including the Station CO Grp/Cpt Willetts DSO who had gone along for the ride.

Whilst at Stalag Luft III, he employed his skills learnt as a draughtsman and became a member of the team to produce maps and forged documents for the Great Escape but he did not take part due to being in hospital.

After repatriation, he served in the Middle East and fulfilled a dream to fly jet aircraft by being posted to a Meteor Sqdn on the East coast. He left the RAF in 1966, becoming a teacher. Later he held positions in the RAFA and 7 Sqdn where due to his efforts, a stained glass window and a roll of honour are in RAF Oakington's Church at All Saints Longstanton.

He is buried, in Longstanton All Saints' churchyard, not far from the village war memorial.



Charles Lofthouse's grave



(See page 8, Longstanton, Recent Past - RAF Oakington)



Bert Collis



Sylvia Skinner

## Longstanton - Family Home for Four Generations The Collis Family



Val Hine



Andrew Hine



Rachel Hine

The Collis family have lived in the village of Long Stanton since the 1700s and possibly earlier.

Sylvia Skinner who was born in 1919 is the last remaining of the nine children of William Collis. Sylvia went to school at Long Stanton (which is now residential accommodation) she was married in the village church the same as her parents were. Val Hine, daughter of the late Bert Collis and granddaughter of William Collis, was born in Long Stanton and also educated at the same school as Sylvia. Val attended Willingham School and then went on to Swavesey Village College.



William Collis

She was also married in Long Stanton Church. Andrew Hine, son of Val Hine and Great Grandson of William Collis attended Hatton Park School where his grandfather Bert Collis was the first Caretaker (until he retired). Andrew then went to Swavesey College the same as his mother. Rachel Hine, great-great-granddaughter of William Collis and great-granddaughter of Bert Collis was educated at Hatton Park School and is now at Swavesey Village College the same as her father and grandmother.

All the above are still living in the village.

*Sylvia Skinner*



# A brief History of Long Stanton

by Hilary Stroude

## Early Occupation

Longstanton has been inhabited since very early times. Early habitation would have existed predominantly on the belt of sand and gravel that runs east of the brook. Excavations at Hatton Farm in 1991 revealed late Iron Age occupation, and that the site was used for farming during Roman times. Alison Taylor in her *Archaeology of Cambridgeshire (Vol II)* says that during the Roman period "there must have been a centre nearby." The gravel belt provided solid, well drained land on which to build houses; and ran between two areas of fen, a valuable resource to people at this time. To the west, fenland reached as far as the current bridge on the Longstanton / Over boundary. To the east, the fen came from the Rampton direction towards the current parish boundary.

There are further indications that the site of what is now Longstanton was occupied during the Roman Period. It has been suggested that the use of the word "Stan", the Anglo-Saxon word meaning stone, was associated with sites that had been inhabited during the Roman period. During recent building work on a house within the



Conservation Area pottery has been found, including a terracotta lid identified by the Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology in Cambridge as possibly Roman. The well at St. Michael's church may also

indicate early occupation of the site. If there was a settlement in Longstanton during Roman times, it is likely that it was centred on the land near All Saints church, and that the Manor Farm paddocks are surviving examples of earlier pre-historic or Roman field systems.

## Anglo-Saxon and the Domesday Period

A lecture by Dr G. Jones of the University of Leicester suggests that the word "tun" indicates an important meeting point in Anglo-Saxon England directly in the hands of the local lord; that is to say, a manor or estate. In East Anglia, much of the landscape was characterised by nucleated villages, with the church (not necessarily a building) as a focal point. Developments prior to 1066 had seen small estates becoming more common. The increased proximity of the lord to



village meant that the lord could rule over his manor and village as one unit. The manor house, the residence of the lord and his family was set away from the village proper. The fields radiating out from the village itself were divided between the sections in which peasants grew their own crops and the demesne, land dedicated to the lord's crops and worked by the serfs or villeins. Some areas of the village would be "Sokeland" – types of land whose ownership and usage distinguished it from the manor's other lands.

A typical tenth century village would have had a church standing amongst clusters of small wooden houses each with a modest garden plot. Stretching out from this would have been the arable lands. Many of the fields lacked fences – once harvested the land used by one resident of the village reverted to the community as a whole. Nearby were the commons, where peasants grazed their domestic animals. Beyond the commons lay the waste – the woods which the village depended on for everything from timber to clay to wild fruits and berries. There would be much variation depending on the location of the village. In the case of Longstanton, the community would have had access to fish, fowl and reeds from the neighbouring fen. Arable cultivation would have been at the forefront of their farming practices, and evidence of strip farming and ridge and furrow can still be seen in the Manor Farm and in Melrose House paddocks today.



Melrose House meadow leading to the brook. Evidence of our ancient past - contours of 'ridge and furrow' clearly visible after a light fall of snow in brilliant early morning sunshine.

Photo Longstanton Archive, January 2003

The Black Death in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century reduced the amount of labour available throughout England, and land that had been previously ploughed was put down to pasture. It was this conversion of land to grazing that has helped to preserve the historic landscape still found within the Conservation Area today.

During the Domesday period (1086) Longstanton was one of the most populated villages in the area, with sheep the predominant livestock. The Domesday Book records that the largest land holding of 4½ hides\* was held in 1066 by Sexi, King Edward's thane. The marsh on this holding yielded 3,200 eels. After the Conquest William I gave this land to Gilbert son of Thorold from whom the overlordship passed to the Tony family. Tony's Fee and the manors derived from it (including Walwyns) came from this one Anglo-Saxon manorial estate. It may be possible to identify exactly where this land holding was. The sharp bend on the Willingham – Longstanton road provides a good indication that people had to go around an important pre-Conquest site. Therefore the original manorial holding is most likely to have been situated on the land north and east of All Saints church, with the bend on the main road the northern boundary.

\*hide - obsolete measure of land area varying from about 60 to 120 acres.

By 1086 the Normans had re-formed virtually all the pre-Conquest holdings into three manors. The 3 hides which later formed Long Stanton or Cheyneys manor were held in 1066 by 15 sokemen. Their lands were given after the Conquest to Picot, Sheriff of Cambridge. Picot also held other land in the village which later formed Colvilles Manor, which was situated under / near what is now St. Michaels' Mount. The Domesday Book includes a 4th and final reference to Longstanton - a small area of land held by William son of Ansculf. Sheriff Picot was also given this land by William I. Some time later this holding appears to have merged with one of the afore-mentioned manors.

## The principal lords of the Manors

The first Cheyney in Longstanton was Sir William de Cheyney, a French knight from Guernsey. He held land in Longstanton from about 1235. A high status family of knights, who for generations were close to the Kings of England, the family increased their ownership of land in the village throughout the 15<sup>th</sup> Century to the point where they held all the main manors. However, by the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century they had lost some of this land to the local Burgoyne family as a result of various disputes. On the south side of All Saints church stands the Cheyney Chapel, later taken over by the Hatton family. One can speculate that the Cheyney's were involved during the re-building of the church after the original was destroyed by fire in 1349.

The last Cheyney to live in the village was the Reverend John Cheyney, rector of Longstanton St. Michael from 1432. After his death, the remaining land passed to his Cheyney relations of Fen Ditton; who were also knights and close

allies of the King. The Cheyney family finally died out when Sir Thomas Cheyney had an only daughter, Elizabeth, who married Lord Thomas Vaux of Northamptonshire in 1523. Her father settled all his extensive estates, including those of Longstanton and Fen Ditton, on Elizabeth, at the time of her marriage.

The Vaux family held the Longstanton land for over 100 years, apart from when the Crown confiscated it as a penalty for the family's adherence to the Catholic Faith. The Vaux family never lived in the village, and in 1617 Lord Edward Vaux sold his Longstanton estate to Sir Christopher Hatton of Kirby Hall, Northamptonshire, who was a cousin and heir of the famous Sir Christopher Hatton, the Lord Chancellor to Queen Elizabeth I. At about the same time the Burgoynes sold their land holdings to the Hattons. Hence the Hatton family became the largest single land owner in Longstanton for the next 250 years. The estate of about 1787 acres was sold in numerous lots by the Finch-Hatton's in 1874. It was this sale that gave rise to the farms and land holdings still in evidence today.

## Conclusion

The village of Longstanton still contains much evidence of its historical past within the surrounding landscape. This was primarily due to the strong manorial system that controlled the village for hundreds of years. The influential lords of the manors ensured that there was no piecemeal destruction of the manorial holdings; a legacy that we can still appreciate today.

Written by: **Hilary A.E.Stroude, The Manor, Woodside, Longstanton. © July 2005** (With thanks to G.H.Preedy and F.R.E. Preedy for assistance with the text)



All Saint's church - Hatton Chapel with the remains of the ancient Saxon Cross under the window

## Reference and Further Reading:

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- Medieval Roads and Tracks: Paul Hindle
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- Hatton Estate Sales Particulars (Cambridge Uni. .Library / Cambridgeshire Collection?)
- Court case: Rev. Atkins v Sir T.D. Hatton and others. (CRO P111/27)
- An essay in the Agrarian History of Longstanton Cambridge in the 16th and 17th centuries. H.M. Clark (CRO ref: R63/32 and 325/P1)
- Notes on the history of Long Stanton All Saints – H.B. Woolley (original in All Saints church yr.2000)

For other information and documents relating to Longstanton try: Cambridge Central Library; Public Record Office (Shire Hall); Cambridge University Library; Northamptonshire Record Office (Hatton papers)



# Longstanton's Recent PAST

(Within living memory and just beyond)

## Long Stanton

The civil parish of Longstanton was created in 1953 by uniting Long Stanton All Saints and Long Stanton St. Michael. The form Longstanton, occasionally used earlier in the 20th century, was the official name from 1953 and was increasingly adopted for other purposes.



Brookfield House, design resembled that of St Michael's Mount c.1926. Demolished in 1972, to make way for Ladywalk - its entrance followed closely the line of the original drive

## Situation

The single village stands 9 km. (5½ miles) NNW of Cambridge on a low gravel ridge c. 1 km. wide. The land just north-east of the village also lies on gravel but most of the Church Parish is covered with clay, except for small patches of alluvium in the north-west and greensand in the south. The land rises gently from 6 m. (20 ft.) in the north to 20 m. (66 ft.) on the Cambridge-Huntingdon road (the old A604 now A14), which forms the south-western boundary. The irregular western boundary with Swavesey was determined by the furlongs of the open fields, while the northern boundary lies along tracks called mere-ways which divide Long Stanton from Over, Willingham, and Rampton. The village stands principally along both sides of a long almost straight street, aligned NNW and SSE.

## Demography

In 1801 there were still about 60 families in All Saints but only 24 in St. Michael's, making a total population of 400. Increases in the 1810s, 1820s, and 1840s brought it to over 600 by 1851, with roughly the same proportions in the two parishes. The population then fell gradually to about 400 by 1911, the decline being greater in St. Michael's, which lost more than half its inhabitants and never had more than 100 residents between 1871 and 1931. The total population remained steady in the early 20th century but the creation of RAF Oakington and an influx of servicemen and their families more than trebled it by 1951 to over 1,300. In that year there were nearly 500 airmen living in the barracks. The population continued to increase rapidly after 1951, reaching 2,355 in 1981. The 2001 census recorded 1700 parishioners.

## Housing

There were 70 houses with hearths in 1674 and fewer than 80 dwellings in 1811. High Street and Church Lane or Street in St. Michael's parish were both lined by houses and cottages in 1816. Their number fell from 34 in 1851 to 24 in 1871, mainly affecting High Street, which was left with little more than the rectory and two farmhouses. The number of houses in All Saints rose from about 60 in 1831 to nearly 100 by 1851. After the coming of the railway a few houses were built near the station, mostly for railway workers. In the late 19th and early 20th century the total number of houses declined to 115 in 1931.

Apart from the RAF married quarters and local government housing, little private housing was built in the village until the late 60s, when the small estates of Nethergrove and Brookfield Drive were created. Prentice Close, Spiggot's Close, Ladywalk, Clive Hall Drive, Colesfield, The Dale and Fairfield flats were added in the 70s and 80s. Finally, Stokes Close and Brewers Close were completed in the 90s together with Drake's Court flats. During this last period, SCDC built a number of houses, primarily extending Haddow's Close. Single private infill housing also continued. Around 2000, the houses in Magdalene Close, Thornhill Place and Thatcher's Wood, formerly occupied by RAF and Army personal and their families were converted via Annington Homes/MOD for civilian use and sold off as affordable housing. The total number of households in 2005 stood at approx 900.

## Education

In 1843 part of the south aisle of All Saints' was used for a school, which in 1844 moved to a new building perhaps paid for by Elizabeth Ann Hatton nearly opposite the church, built of brick and slate with a small turret at the entrance end. It had almost 60 pupils in 1873, rising to 70 by the end of the century. With the decline in



Headmistress holding her dog, first right, second row, with the children, taken in front of the Old School House, School Lane. c.1900

population, attendance fell to half that figure by the Second World War. After 1946 the older pupils went to schools elsewhere but the growth of the village

soon outpaced the accommodation available. Hatton Park School was opened in May 1954 on the site of the Hattons' manor house. The Old School and the School House were sold off into private hands; the Old School became a hairdresser's during the 60s and 70s and was then converted in the 80s to a two storey private house with the distinct bell tower and mansard fish-scale slate roof. In 1975 there were 161 Army and RAF children and 106 from the village.

## Impact of RAF Oakington

Longstanton was transformed by the Air Ministry's acquisition in 1939 of 353 acres at the north-east end of St. Michael's parish for part of RAF Oakington, severing the then B1050 connecting us with Oakington and Cambridge. Although the airfield lay in Oakington, most of the hangars, all of the barracks, and other buildings were in Longstanton.



Stirlings

An extraordinary photograph taken by the German Luftwaffe, showing Longstanton and the birth of RAF Oakington - 'Site Under Construction', before the main runway and when Thatcher's Wood was still a wood. c.1941



Wellingtons

The station opened in 1940 and continuous operations began after concrete runways were laid in 1941.

Bomber squadrons, flying Stirlings, Wellingtons and Lancasters, operated throughout the Second World War and for part of it a photographic reconnaissance unit and a meteorological flight, flying Mosquitoes and Spitfires.



Lancasters



Mosquito



Spitfire

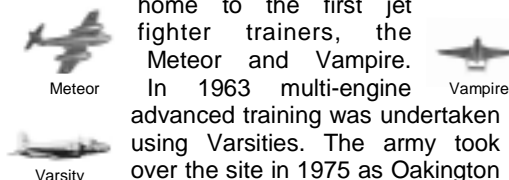
Our national debt to the men, who flew from RAF Oakington during the 2nd WW - their families and loved ones, may be judged by the total operational losses of bombers flying from this airfield. Including machines destroyed in crashes in the UK, these amounted to 258. This was made up of 113 Stirlings, 93 Lancasters, 36 Mosquitos and 16 Wellingtons.



Lancaster Crew



The airfield was used by transport squadrons from 1945 to 1950 and by training schools after 1950, becoming home to the first jet fighter trainers, the Meteor and Vampire.



In 1963 multi-engine advanced training was undertaken using Varsity. The army took over the site in 1975 as Oakington Barracks; in 1984 it accommodated an infantry battalion, a helicopter squadron, and an education centre. In 1999 the Royal Anglian Regiment moved from Oakington to North Luffenham.

After 1945 three housing estates were built in Long Stanton as married quarters for airmen. Post-war building in St. Michael's was restricted to a few more expensive houses, though there were also three residential caravan sites, originally established to provide temporary accommodation for the RAF. In 1984 they included at least 40 permanent dwellings and had room for touring caravans. In 2000, the Ministry of Defence leased the redundant barracks site to the Home Office for an Immigration Centre, which has processed several thousand asylum seekers' claims. The Centre is due to close by the end of 2006.



## New Farms post 1916

A few farms were built in the former open fields after enclosure in 1816. In 1861 only the Bar House on Hatton's Road and Noon Folly Farm at the south end of the parish were inhabited. New Close Farm near Noon Folly and New Farm near the station were both built shortly after the Finch-Hatton estate was broken up in 1874. Inholms, perhaps dating from the same period, was demolished to make way for the airfield. In 1984, the only other farmhouse outside the village was Brookfield, a modern bungalow on Rampton Drift.

## Long Stanton Railway Station

The railway from Cambridge to St. Ives opened in 1847 with a station by the Willingham road about half way between the village and the parish boundary. Its goods yard provided a valuable railhead for farmers and growers in Longstanton and the neighbouring villages for well over one hundred years. The station closed in 1970 but the line remained in use for goods traffic until 1987.

## Public Houses

The inn which in 1686 had 3 beds and stabling for 2 horses was presumably the Black Bull.

Between 1841 and 1875, 3 pubs were opened in Longstanton: 'The William IV' on the Huntingdon Road - located almost opposite to the present Lolworth petrol station; 'The Railway Tavern' next to the

station, and 'The Red Cow' at Green End which closed in 1908 - now Green End Farm. By 1984 there were only two pubs in the village and the Hoops in St. Michael's, which began c. 1900 as a beer shop. The Hoops closed in 1983.



The Hoops standing at the corner of St. Michaels and Wilson's Road. Note, left to right middle ground, telephone box and Quaker House. c.1950

## Village Institute

A small Village Institute was built in 1926 in High Street, the cost being partly defrayed by the accumulated profits of the stone, gravel, and clay pits allotted for public use at enclosure. After 1968 it was known as the Longstanton Social Centre. In 1951 the parish council purchased 8 acres by Over Road for a sports ground, on which a new pavilion was opened in 1971 known today as the Sports and Social Club.

## Village Farming Economy

Wheat was the most important cereal in the late 19th century, though in most years barley ran it a close second. The total cereal acreage fell from about 1,400 acres in 1866 to just over 1,000 acres in 1905 as more land was put down to grass and fodder crops, particularly clover and turnips. The arable retreated again after 1918, and in 1935 the grassland, at about 900 acres, was marginally more extensive than the land under cereals, wheat still predominating. In 1980 there were 295 hectares (730 acres) of wheat, 168 hectares (415 acres) of barley, and 86 hectares (213 acres) of rape. Sheep were long the



Long Stanton Station, viewed trackside looking towards Swavesey. Middle distance, left to right, main platform, station booking office and house, crossing gates, second platform, signal, signal box and goods siding. Main goods yard was to the left, out of camera. c.1950



dominant livestock. In 1866 there were about 1,750 sheep, though the number fell by nearly half before 1900 and few were kept after 1945. By then cattle were more numerous than at any time previously. In the 1790s one tenant farmer kept only enough to meet his household's dairy needs. Brookfield Farm had a large pig unit in 1982.

Market gardens and commercial orchards covered about 40 acres in 1885. In the 1920s there were about 175 acres of orchards, nearly all in the northern part of the parish near the railway station. Almost all had been grubbed up by 1980, when market gardens covered about 300 acres. There were usually four or five market gardening businesses in the late 19th century and a few more in the early 20th. Cambridgeshire Growers Ltd., established in 1949, packed and marketed local produce from premises by the station until 1968 or later. In 1984 Noon Folly Farm was being rented by the National Institute of Agricultural Botany for its work in the certification of seeds. The Hattons owned the only windmill recorded in the 17th century, which was mentioned until 1789.

## Trades



Thomas Cole, baker, with horse drawn cart and delivery cycles. c.1910

Carpenters, a shoemaker, a thatcher, and a ropemaker worked in the village in the late 16th and early 17th century. In the 19th century there were blacksmiths, carpenters, wheelwrights, thatchers, shoemakers, and cordwainers. The number of craftsmen declined from the 1870s with the fall in population, and in the early 20th century there were only a blacksmith, a boot repairer and, for about 20 years, a carpenter. Around 1850 there were five shops in the village, and after 1900 usually three or four. The increase of population after the Second World War allowed three shops to remain open in 1984. Today, while we only have one shop and Post Office in the High Street, there are over 80 very versatile businesses in the village, ranging from hairdressing, veterinary surgery, electrical contracting, chimney sweeping, B&B, house lettings, high tech, computing, consultancies, industrial, decorating, building, motoring, agricultural and many more commercial concerns.

## Local Government

Both parishes were in Chesterton poor-law union from 1836 and Chesterton rural district from 1894. The united civil parish was in South Cambridgeshire district from 1974.

## The Medieval Churches

The two parishes in Long Stanton, All Saints and St. Michael, were both first recorded in 1217. The benefices were united in 1923 but the ecclesiastical parishes remained separate until 1959, when St. Michael's became a chapel of ease to All Saints.

### All Saints'



Interior view of All Saint's church, complete with oil lamps. c.1900

The rector of the united benefice in 1969 and 1984 held services in both churches every Sunday; his successors also acted as chaplain at the military base. The greater part of the church dates from a reconstruction after the existing building

was damaged by fire in 1349 so completely that it was unusable for services. The new church was evidently substantially complete by 1361, when a falling tree broke through the roof and killed two people inside. The church was fully restored between 1886 and 1891, when the window tracery was renewed and the top of the spire rebuilt. The alabaster monument to Sir Thomas Hatton (d.1658) and his wife Mary, remains in the chapel. The couple are depicted in recumbent effigies on a tomb chest, the side panels of which carry the figures of six of their children. A stained-glass window is dedicated to the memory of airmen who died in action during the First and Second World wars. In the 19th century the rent from 10 acres owned by the parish was regularly used for repairs. The parish retained some of the land in 1984.

### St Michael's

'This church is typically and appealingly English in its setting, an adorable small village church in a quiet and idyllic corner. Lovers of architecture will admire the superb 13th century double piscina in the south chancel wall, with its two drains set beneath intersecting arches, similar to one in Jesus College Chapel Cambridge', writes the Churches Conservation Trust. St Michael's comprises a chancel and an aisled nave with south porch and west bellcot, and is built of field stones with ashlar dressings.

The nave and aisles are contained under a single thatched roof, one of only two to survive in Cambridgeshire. The chancel was presumably tiled during the 1884 restoration. St Michael's was fully re-thatched in 2000 by the Churches Conservation Trust. In 1825 the rector was holding morning and afternoon services each Sunday. The last separate rector of St. Michael's in 1897 held similar services and had 18 communicants in a churchgoing population of c.55, about two thirds of the parish. By the 1960s the church was used for only two or three services a year. It was declared redundant in 1973 and was taken over by the Redundant Fund in 1975. Today the Churches Conservation Trust is seeking funds and consent to reopen it for modern community use. In 1846 the church of St. James the Less, Philadelphia, was built almost exactly to measured drawings of St. Michael's.



Exterior view of St Michael's church, complete with its two external bells in the bellcot. c.1920

### Notes and references:

Information supplied here has been derived from extracts: *'Long Stanton'*, A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume IX: Chesterton, Northstowe, and Papworth Hundreds (1989), pp. 220-236. © 2003-2005 University of London & History of Parliament Trust. [www.visitchurches.org.uk](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk) ©The Churches Conservation trust 2004. Additional notes have been supplied by residents of Longstanton.

With thanks to the Central Library's Cambridgeshire Collection and Tom Eaton for permission to reproduce these photos of the past



Post Office, Mill Lane. c.1900



Railway Tavern, level crossing and signal box. c.1910



Longstanton's horse drawn snow plough - shown coming from the School Lane junction with the High Street. It was stored at the old smithy when not in use. c.1927 (See page 30)



High Street Longstanton, Brookfield House drive on the right. c.1930



Before Colesfield, The Dale and Stoke's Close. Dutch Elm disease later removed tree line, below Church Farm. c.1975

Aerial photograph taken from a Phantom jet on it's way home to Alconbury. Photo: Dick Brant



Home Farm buildings and wall - a familiar sight on the High Street for many years c 2002



# PRESENT



Hatton's Road (formerly Mansion Road) Longstanton  
B1050 gateway to the Fens from the A14 and Bar Hill

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Who replied

- In July 2004 our volunteers distributed about 900 booklets of 85 questions to every household and 30 business concerns. By August 450 households and 15 businesses had completed and returned them. This is a splendid 50% return rate, considering that up to 15% of houses were unoccupied or under exchange leaving an estimated 765 houses occupied<sup>1</sup>.
- The 450 questionnaires returned represent 1024 parishioners, slightly more (51%) were female<sup>2</sup>. About one in ten were under 12 years old, the same proportion were secondary school/young adults (up to 24 years). Rather more than a quarter each were young middle and later middle aged, and just under a fifth were retired and older retired.

The **Full Technical Report** on the Analysis of the Village Questionnaire 2004 on which this Summary based is available for viewing in the following ways:

A paper copy of the full 90-page *Report* is held by the Clerk of Longstanton Parish Council (Mrs Pauline Haywood, 01954 260766), the Secretary of the Longstanton Parish Plan Committee (Dr Françoise Close, 0777 3388591), and in the reference section of public libraries at Swavesey, Bar Hill, Histon, Willingham and Cambridge Central Library, Lion Yard. CD-R copies (pdf

- Of those eligible to respond (at least 12 years old), 857 filled in their own column. The age range is well distributed, with a quarter of our respondents 12-24 years old, about half between 25 and 64, and nearly a quarter over 65. (However, the questionnaire analyst advised us that the responses from Longstanton businesses may not be representative of all businesses in the village)

### 1.2 Response rate

- The response rate to the questions varied according to circumstances and personal interests, usually well over 80%, and all felt able to have their say on what mattered most to them: we received very many searching comments. Strikingly, 101 respondents added their thoughts, lengthily and articulately, on the blank pages of their questionnaires, highlighting additional concerns.
- This report is therefore based on answers from about half the village residents, a credit to the dedicated volunteers who distributed and collected the questionnaires, and to the people of Longstanton who so splendidly responded.



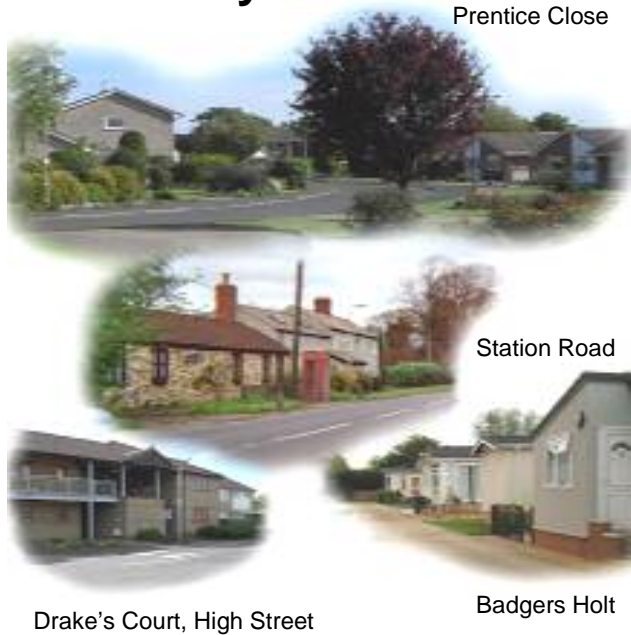
School Lane leading to the Immigration Centre formerly  
RAF Oakington/ Oakington Barracks

format) are also available on demand from the Parish Plan Secretary or at the Village Shop at a cost of £1. You can view the full report on CD or in print at the computer room in the Longstanton Village Institute (contact Dr William Sellwood on 0970 0923774).

The *Technical Report*, which contains a compilation of individual comments from respondents, is the source of information used to advise and lobby partner organisations in carrying forward the Longstanton Action Plan.

1. In the 2001 Census, 772 of the 878 dwellings were occupied.  
2. In the same Census, there were 1700 parishioners in Longstanton, 51% male and 49% female.

## 2. Residency



- Most residents are recent arrivals or fairly new to the village. Only 4% of our respondents have lived in the village for over 50 years, while just under half have been here less than 6 years. Only six in every hundred respondents have lived in the village for the whole of their lives and of those, more than half are under 25 years old. This trend will continue because the village will register a significantly large population growth with the planned completion, in the coming years, of 500 new dwellings in the Home Farm site, west of the village.
- We suggested six main reasons why Longstanton was chosen. The most frequently mentioned by our respondents (208 times) is that it is an *attractive area*, followed by *employment* (193). *Family connections* and *moving with the family* proved equally strong reasons (109 times each). *Schooling* was only mentioned by 15.
- Among the *other reasons*, many were attracted by '*affordable housing*' (86 mentions) while 77 '*came to Longstanton to retire*'. The attraction of '*being out of town in a quiet and peaceful environment*' was also mentioned 18 times.

## 3. Education

- Out of the 1024 residents represented in the returned questionnaires, 22 children attended 'early years' groups, 107 young people were in compulsory education to 16 years old, and 32 were post-16 at Sixth Form (Cambridge and Impington), in training in Cambridge or Ely, or at a range of British universities, with Cambridge the nearest and Newcastle, Durham, Lancaster and Exeter furthest.

### 3.1 Primary Education

- Not everyone under 12 attends primary school in Longstanton but residents value Hatton Park Primary School. Among those who expressed an opinion about primary school facilities in Longstanton, three times as many thought the school's facilities good or satisfactory as thought them poor.
- However, main concerns were parking hazards, delays in re-building, discipline problems, a need for more sports and arts/humanities provision, and a lack of swimming facilities. Since the time the questionnaire was filled in, some of the long awaited building improvements at Hatton Park Primary have actually started.



Jane Heath, Head Teacher  
(Hatton Park Primary School)

### 3.2 Secondary Education



Martin Bacon, Principal  
(Swavesey Village College)

- Similar proportions of those expressing an opinion were satisfied with the secondary education facilities for Longstanton in neighbouring community colleges (Swavesey or Cottenham), with secondary facilities regarded as slightly better than primary ones.
- Some would welcome a truly 'local' secondary school and 5% of respondents were not at all satisfied with the existing provision.

### 3.3 Adult Education

- Among those (only 30% of respondents) stating opinions on this, about a quarter considered provision to be poor locally, mainly because of '*poor public transport links*', and therefore many miss out altogether. Twice as many found the provisions good - '*if willing to travel*' to the community colleges or to facilities in Cambridge - as those who found them merely satisfactory
- While some wanted a wider choice of courses in neighbouring community colleges to cover educational needs, over a third of those replying were not aware of *any* adult education facilities locally, and thus '*need better publicised information*'.



## 4. Employment

### 4.1 Employment status

- Among our respondents in mid-2004, the number of unemployed people in Longstanton was remarkably low (1%).
- Nearly half of all respondents worked for an employer. Just over one in ten respondents were self-employed, either alone or as an employer in Longstanton or elsewhere. Residents in full time education and Government training schemes represented 7% of our respondents, and 4% said they were unwaged house-spouses.
- Of our respondents, 2% were permanently sick or disabled; this is a significant percentage for Longstanton and we must consider village facilities for the disabled.
- Finally, about a quarter of our respondents were retired: this represents a very substantial section of our community, and we need to consider appropriate facilities.

### 4.2 Place of work

- For the 502 respondents who were employees, self-employed or employers, Cambridge (43%) was the main work location; 15% worked within 5 miles of Longstanton, and another 13% worked in Longstanton itself. A further 22% worked elsewhere in East Anglia, as far west as Luton, including 4% in the St Ives/Huntingdon area and 1% in the Ely area and 6% less locally in England, or (2 persons) abroad.

### 4.3 Businesses in Longstanton

- Replies from both residents and businesses in the village indicated that Longstanton business community provides welcome employment for both local and non-local employees, attracting a substantial workforce to the village every day.



Business Park, Old Station goods yard, Station Road

- About 55 businesses were represented in responses to some questions (although the responses to **Travelling to work in Longstanton**, below, come from just fourteen employers of non-resident staff). While 28 businesses consisted of resident individuals working alone, eighteen employed 1-5 people, six employed 11-25 people, and three provided work for over 26 employees (including one with a workforce of over 100).
- Businesses in Longstanton appeared to look ahead to the next year with confidence, either maintaining or increasing their workforce. Fifteen employers thought their workforce would remain the same and four anticipated their workforce would increase in Longstanton.

### 4.4 Travelling to work in Longstanton

- The main Longstanton businesses that we knew about were asked about their staff's commuting pattern. Fourteen employers of non-resident staff replied, representing 244 employees. In total, only six of these employees lived in Longstanton: of these two drove to work, two cycled and two came on foot. Another 43 of these fourteen employers' combined staff came from nearby villages.
- A total of 195 people commuted on average 14-20 miles to Longstanton. A substantial 70 of them commuted between 30 and 70 miles to Longstanton, and 10 more came from even further afield to work here.
- Travel for the overwhelming majority of Longstanton's employees not residing in the village was by car: over 97% of their journeys to and from work involved the M11, A14 and/or B1050. Four non-resident employees cycled, one rode a motorbike, and one travelled to work by bus. Road access for Longstanton's commuters is crucial.

So, in this partial poll of Longstanton businesses, most (98%) of their employees come from outside the village. There may be benefits, in terms of their support for shops and their potential involvement in village activities, but there is a perception that there are problems, particularly associated with car use and parking, involving at least some of the businesses.

## 5. Parking, Road Safety and Transport in Longstanton

### 5.1 How we get about

- Among the 450 households responding, there was an average of 1.7 motor vehicles (mostly cars, but some vans, motorbikes and a few other types) per household, ranging from none (8% of households) to 11 (a family with 4 cars and 7 other motor vehicles). Additionally there were well over two hundred vehicles associated with the businesses.
- The local businesses that responded said that the majority of their vehicle parking is off-road.
- There is a problem with on-road parking on the High Street from Hatton's Park to All Saints Church which can cause congestion and poor visibility.
- The average was 1 bicycle per household, ranging from none (5%) to 7.
- Just under a fifth of respondents used a taxi service, about monthly.
- Around 6% of respondents used a wheelchair or walking aid.
- Very few residents used the existing community bus service [Cambridgeshire County Council's Community Transport Officer can be contacted on 01223 717755], but someone suggested that the Parish Council should consider a mini-bus for hire for the village.
- Approximately 75% of villagers did not use local public transport.
- Residents wanted a more reliable and frequent bus service; improved and more direct routes to get them to doctors' surgeries in Over and Willingham and to shops and activities in St Ives, Ely etc., at affordable prices; evening and weekend services; and alternative destinations.
- There was also concern about bus access and comfort for disabled people and those with pushchairs. Strong feelings such as these were voiced: "Discontinuing through buses to Willingham via Station Road is a retrograde step"; 'have stopped using bus through my locality'; 'I have occasionally used bus to Cambridge, but won't be able to in future as new route doesn't pass here'; 'anyone wishing to go to Willingham Surgery would have to walk to the Black Bull, Longstanton, or travel to Willingham via Over'; 'anyone living in Station Road and wishing to use [Longstanton] Post Office could no longer catch a bus at the Station for this facility'.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Currently bus passes are free to pensioners (application forms are available at the Post Office) which entitles them to half price travel

**DID YOU KNOW?** There is a Monday to Saturday evening bus service to Cambridge, subsidised by Cambridgeshire County Council, leaving the village at 19.09 or 20.53 and returning from Drummer Street at 19.50, 21.34 or 23.15.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Traffic calming measures have been put in at several sites in the village during 2004-05. If you are concerned that these are not functioning properly, please contact the Parish Council Chairman Cllr Alex Riley, and David Brace at Cambridgeshire County Council.

### 5.2 Identified risks from traffic

- Drivers of motor vehicles noticed congestion from school traffic; bad parking; speeding – by through and local traffic - in most areas of the village; and blind bends.
- For pedestrians, the above risks were aggravated by:
  - a. inadequate crossing points on the High Street;
  - b. lack of, or poorly maintained, pavements especially along the northern part of the High Street near Ladywalk, by All Saints Church, along Station Road, along St Michael's and Woodside, as well as from Crabtree Corner to the railway line (where many support a speed reduction to 40 mph);
  - c. dog fouling, over-hanging branches, cars parked on the pavement, and wheelie bins.
  - d. Moreover, pavements - often narrow, uneven, and in need of repairs – were perceived as unfriendly to disabled users and those with pushchairs.



Parking and traffic in the High Street

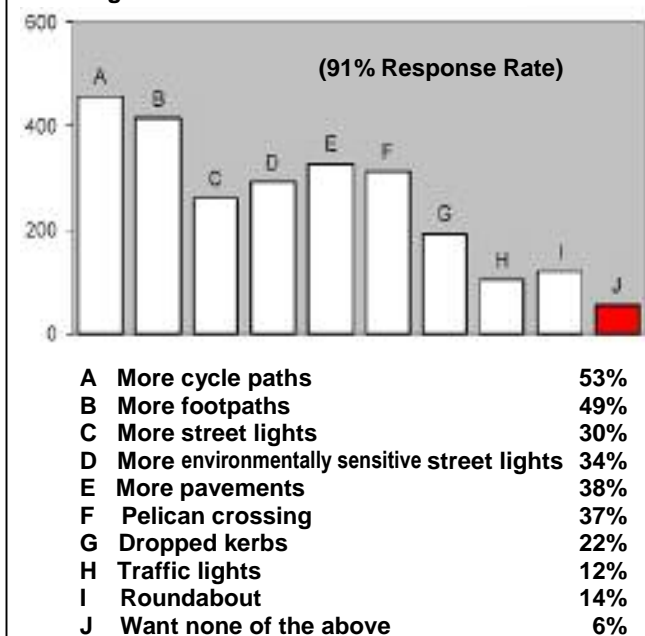


- For cyclists and pedestrians, there was overwhelming support for:
  - a. Cycle ways and footpaths, with many suggesting dedicated cycle lanes as well as pavements for pedestrians.
  - b. Safe access to all other villages in the area, and to Cambridge, should be improved urgently, including providing routes to Swavesey Village College. Four out of five of respondents favoured a cycle path along the B1050 to Bar Hill and three-quarters to Willingham.
  - c. Respondents commented that the B1050 is extremely dangerous to walk or cycle and that good, dedicated cycle lanes, and footpaths suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs, would encourage local non-motor travel.
  - d. Cycle racks at key locations in the village e.g. Post Office, Village Institute, Sports and Social Club were called for.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Blue Stickers on some Longstanton lampposts indicate the local part of Route 51 of the National Cycling Network. Information can be obtained at: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/around/cycling/ncn+51.htm](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/around/cycling/ncn+51.htm)

### 5.3 Paths, streetlights and safety

Q26: Would you like additional paths, streetlights etc?



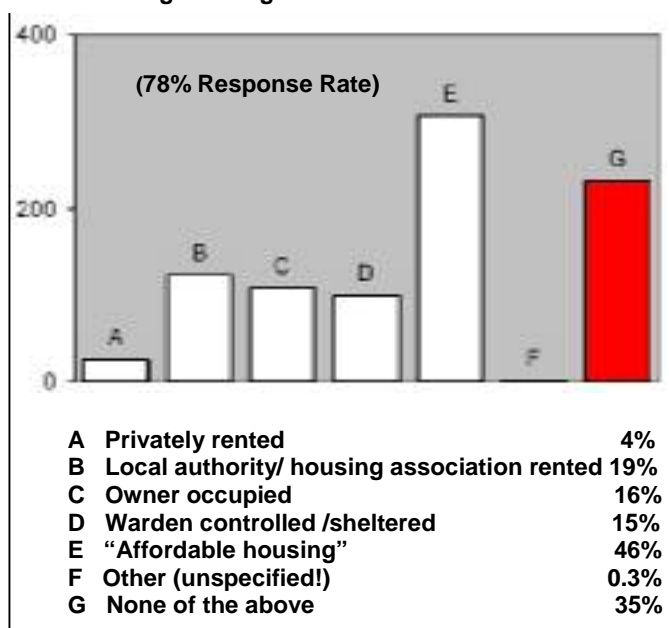
- Of 91% of respondents answering this question, over half confirmed they would like more cycle paths and almost half would like more footpaths.
- Respondents had mixed reactions to future roundabouts and traffic lights: they were either resigned to them as inevitable for Northstowe traffic, or they objected to them as further causes of congestion and pollution.

- Several commented on the necessity for a bypass west of the village, preferably aligned with a bypass to Willingham, particularly to protect Longstanton's sense of community.
- The findings were supported by local businesses.

## 6. Housing, Healthcare and Personal Safety

### 6.1 Housing

Q27: Is there need for more accommodation of the following in Longstanton?



- The responses to this question, summarised above, highlight the needs of any sustainable community, addressing in particular its young adults and elderly.
- Several people have moved into the village recently precisely because affordable housing has been available, and would like others to have the same chance. Thus there was some emphasis on the inclusion of affordable housing in new developments, though others were afraid of social consequences/ drop in existing property values from rapid development of other than "quality" housing.

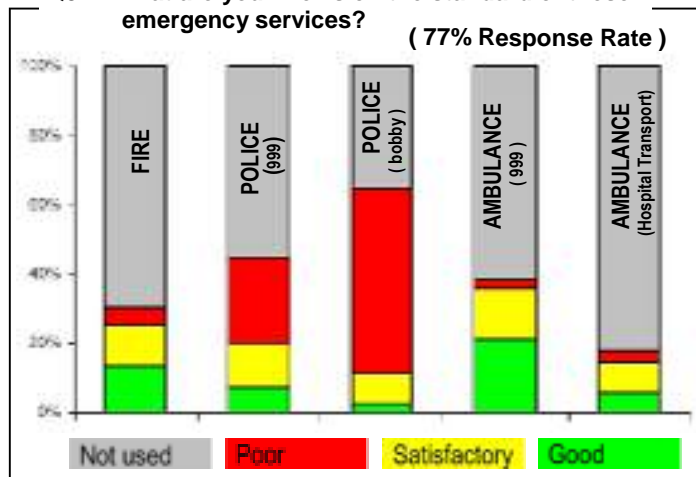
### 6.2 Healthcare

- While most residents registered with medical practices in Willingham (63%) or Over (26%), their access to dental services was more dispersed, although in the main local (Bar Hill, Cottenham, Histon and Cambridge for approximately 75% of residents).
- Around a third of respondents went to a Cambridge dentist as it was where they worked. New residents seemed to have had problems in finding a local NHS dentist. The perception was often that there are 'not enough dentists to go round'.

- For those people who do use local medical/ community services (e.g. district nurse, health visitor, care assistant etc.) most rated their experience as good or satisfactory.
- The most frequently reported difficulty was access to the medical practices, especially for those without personal means of transport. Hopefully, these respondents may be helped by the branch of the Willingham Surgery that has recently opened in the old NAAFI Community Centre in Longstanton (See page 32).

### 6.3. Emergency Services and Police

Q31: What are your views on the standard of these emergency services? ( 77% Response Rate )



- The policing of the village evoked numerous comments that matched those widely reported in the wider media. Frustration and anger was expressed by some at the lack of interest/responsiveness of the police over traffic offences (speeding through the village), thefts, and vandalism.
- Traffic congestion in and around the village was highlighted as reducing the response times of the Emergency Services.

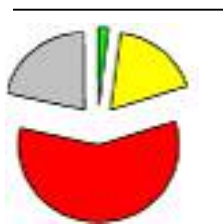
Q32: What do you think of the Police coverage in Longstanton?

(92% Response Rate)

No opinion  
Poor  
Satisfactory  
Good

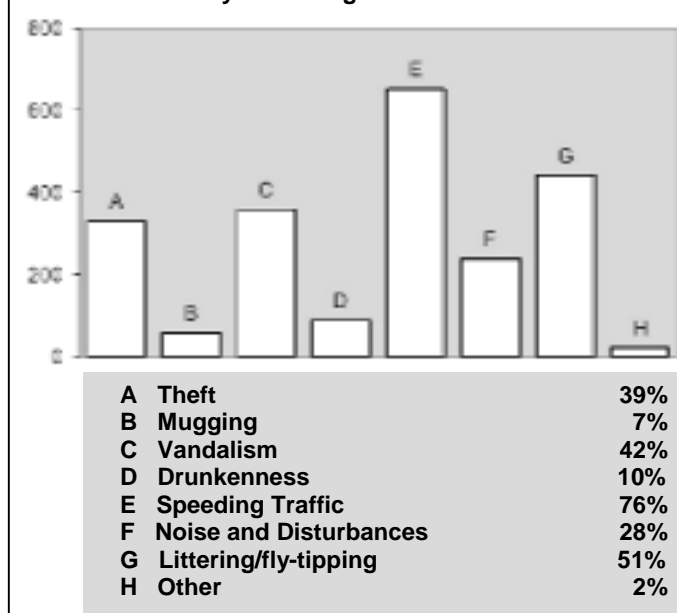


22%  
58%  
18%  
2%



- Local businesses were critical of the lack of visibility of the village police officer. Overall, there was dissatisfaction with local policing of the community.
- Respondents wanted a greater police presence (59% of replies) / consultation with local people (36%) as crime prevention measures, together with a revival of Neighbourhood Watch schemes (30%). Many particularly commented on the lack of a 'beat bobby'. One person suggested 'open times' for meeting the officer responsible for the village, perhaps at the Post Office.

Q33: Which of the following concern you in Longstanton?



- Further confirmation of the need for more policing was reflected by the community's concerns over particular crimes. Speeding traffic and littering/ fly-tipping (including on streets, the Airfield Road, and at Crabtree Corner) concerned over half of respondents, while other specified crimes were less frequent worries.
- These findings graphically illustrate why the dissatisfaction with policing was so great, since most of the crimes/antisocial behaviours require a 'presence' if they are to be tackled. These findings were also mirrored in the responses from local businesses.

### 6.4 What makes people feel unsafe?

- **At all times**, the volume and speed of traffic through the village, poor road crossing points, and poor pavement/footpath access and maintenance.
- **At night**, poor street lighting (notably in Rampton Road, Woodside/ St Michaels), and gatherings of young people at key places (particularly near Hatton Park, All Saints crossroads, and Magdalene Close play park). Other locations were sometimes perceived as unsafe at night: near to the Black Bull public house, near the Sports and Social Club, and the Recreation Ground.

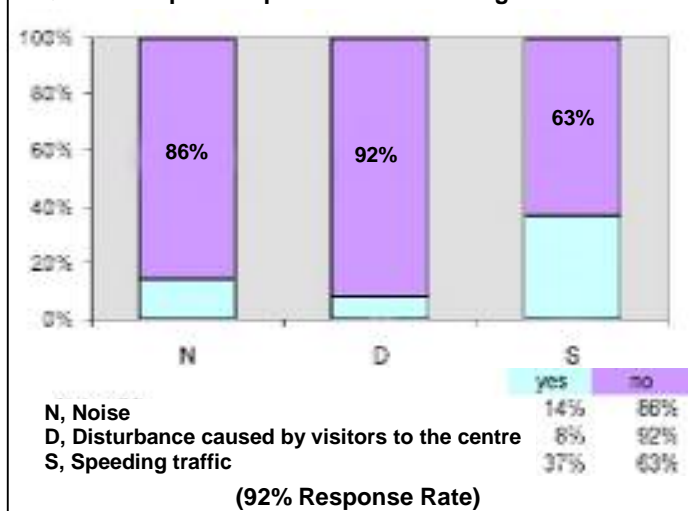


Examples of local fly-tipping and burnt out cars



## 6.5 Problems associated with the Immigration Centre

Q34: Perception of problems from Immigration Centre

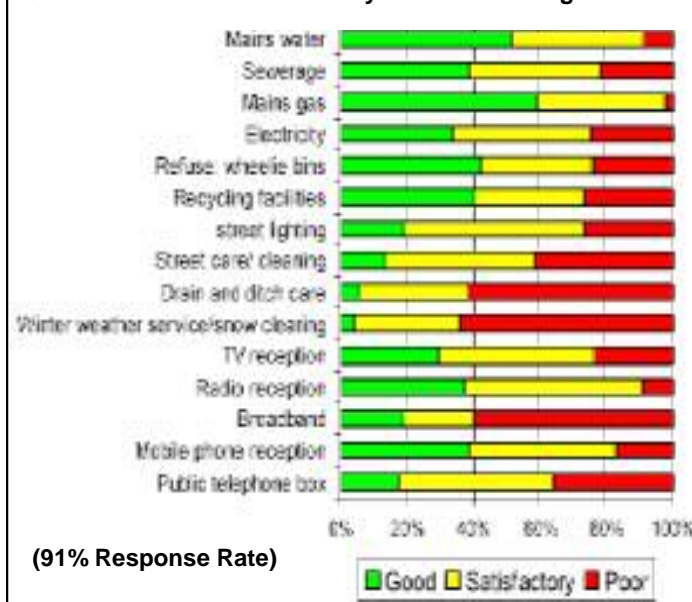


- For the majority of residents the Immigration Centre had not had a major impact, although speeding traffic along Rampton Road/School Lane was a problem. The 'noise' problem was strongly linked to the use of the police helicopter.

## 7. Village Services

### 7.1 Utility services

Q38: Residents' views of utility services in Longstanton?



- There was some concern over low water pressure, the taste of the drinking water, and whether the water supplies for new housing will be enough.
- Complaints were made over the regular smell of sewage, and queries raised whether the sewage system could cope, and where the sewage from Home Farm and Northstowe would be pumped. Many felt that a new system is needed, particularly along Station Road.

- Two people currently without mains gas would like to have it installed.
- In the case of electricity, 25 comments were made about power cuts happening once or twice a week, and again the issue was raised whether this will get worse when the Home Farm houses are connected to the power grid. Provision of a new substation was suggested.

### 7.2 Waste collections

- Wheelie bins.** The fortnightly emptying of the green and black bins was still an issue and many people felt it should be more frequent, especially in the hotter months. People with young families were particularly concerned about this. There was some praise for the green bin service. One business, already paying a higher level of Council Tax, rated the refuse service as poor because businesses must make additional payments for waste collection.
- Some respondents complained that the wheelie bins obstruct the pavements for old and young pedestrians.
- Litter bins.** It was generally felt that there are enough bins and they are emptied enough, although the bins in St Michael's seem to be frequently over-full, as are the ones beside the children's Play Areas. New bin sites were suggested near the railway crossing in Station Road, in Wilson's Road, in Thornhill Close and in Magdalene Place. Comments were also made about fly-tipping on the B1050/Station Road and the Airfield Road to Oakington, as well as near to the Immigration Centre area and on the footpath by the Sports and Social Centre. Several respondents asked that anti-social littering behaviour be constructively challenged in the village.
- Recycling.** Comments on recycling facilities included a request to recycle plastic via a doorstep collection service. It was felt that the recycling service does not go far enough, and that the green box is too small.

**DID YOU KNOW?** A second green box can be provided on request to South Cambs District Council. The nearest plastic recycling bins are at Tesco, Bar Hill and the Co-op, Willingham.

**DID YOU KNOW?** South Cambridgeshire District Council has a contract to keep the Crabtree lay-by clear of rubbish and does so regularly.

### 7.3 Street lighting

- Some pointed out that there is no street lighting on Over Road. Others were concerned that street lights are left on in residential areas far too long, wasting energy.
- One street light in St Michael's comes on every other night, sometimes after midnight. This should be investigated by the Parish Council.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The County Council is responsible for the maintenance and lighting of the first few yards only of Wilson's Road. Thereafter it is simply a bridleway. Wilson's Road and Falcon Park residents need clear information about the status of their 'street'.

### 7.4 Street and road care

- Street care and cleaning was thought inadequate: there are overhanging branches on some footpaths and potholes in the road through St Michaels; verge cutting on the junction of Over Road/Swavesey Road is left too long before being dealt with.
- Snow clearance was generally felt to be poor. In January 2004 no effort was made to clear the B1050 at all.

### 7.5 Drain and ditch care

- The section on drain and ditch care produced many comments. Ditches are poorly maintained, if at all, and when cleaned the vegetation is left on the top to fall back in.
- It was felt that the Brook in the High Street is at times visually disgusting, and only cleaned out thoroughly in times of flood.

### 7.6 TV, radio, telephone and broadband reception

- Residents reported that TV reception is sometimes poor - Channel 5 particularly – while in bad weather conditions it is not at all good.
- One person could not get BBC Radio 1.
- Mobile phone reception is patchy.
- There are problems with the location of public telephones, particularly if you have to cross the main road traffic. Traffic noise is particularly disturbing when phoning from public telephones situated on the B1050.
- Some people were unaware that they could get broadband in Longstanton - some comments, from ex-MOD areas, implied this is not technically possible.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Broadband is now available throughout Longstanton, including Rampton Drift.

### 7.7 Businesses' views on utility services in Longstanton

- Businesses either did not comment on utilities, or found them satisfactory. However, two businesses commented on the poor winter weather/snow clearing service as well as the electricity supply, refuse collection, street lighting and ditch and drain care. Mobile phone reception and broadband received one 'poor' rating from the fifteen businesses.
- In contrast, the water supply, mains gas, sewerage and mobile phone reception received one 'good' rating.

### 7.8 Burial Ground on Hatton's Road

- The vast majority of users felt that the Burial Ground on Hattons Road is well kept, but concern was raised about the nearby lay-by, where some people leave litter.

### 7.9 Dogs and other animals

- a. **Dog-waste bins** This question provoked mixed views. A third of respondents thought these bins are sufficient but a sixth felt there are not enough of them. The bins seem to be well used and are emptied regularly by South Cambs District Council. Several suggestions for the siting of new bins were put forward.
- In relation to the emptying of the dog bins, a quarter of respondents felt they were emptied enough and a sixth did not.
  - Three businesses replied. Two thought there are enough bins but the business that owns a dog felt the bins are not emptied enough.



**DID YOU KNOW?** A dog-waste bin was purchased for Prentice Close by the Parish Council but as no agreement could be made by the residents for the siting of this bin it has not been put up as yet.

- b. **Dog ownership** Of the households who replied to this question, sixty-eight own one dog, twenty-two have two dogs, two households have three, four households have four and one household has seven dogs – totalling 141 dogs.



- c. **Dog Warden Service** This service is provided by South Cambs District Council. Most respondents had no opinion of this, 2% thought it is a good service and 5% each thought it satisfactory and poor respectively. The one business with a dog found it a satisfactory service.

- d. **Animal fouling** The issue of dog fouling produced 170 responses, and 19 locations of affected areas around the village. Problem areas are High Street, St Michael's and Woodside, Thornhill Place, Rampton Road, Rampton Drift, Magdalene Close, Long Lane, Mills Lane and the Recreation Ground on Over Road, as well as grassy areas and footpaths generally. Two people felt cat fouling a problem and one found fouling by horses in Woodside and Thatchers Wood unacceptable.

Animal fouling remains a problem; constructive suggestions need to be advanced on how to discourage offenders and what action can be taken against them.

## 7.10 Keeping the Village clean and tidy

- There were mixed views on participating in a village spring cleaning day and entering a Best Kept Village competition. Over a third were willing to participate in an annual spring clean with a slightly higher number against. Only a quarter would consider doing this twice a year with about a half against.
- Again only a quarter were eager to enter a best kept village competition with a half against. Some felt that the village neatness is the local authority's responsibility, and that the 'high Council Tax' should cover it.

## 7.11 Shopping

- Longstanton has only one general shop and Post Office, which was well supported, but most people did their main grocery shopping at Tesco, Bar Hill, with a few venturing further - even as far as Morrison's at Cambourne. Other places for various types of shopping were Willingham, St Ives, Huntingdon, Ely and even London.
- Most residents considered a car essential for most journeys, but the 15 and 15A buses do go from the centre of Longstanton to Bar Hill and Cambridge.
- Residents reportedly bought newspapers and magazines in the village shop mainly, Bar Hill being second choice. Petrol was mainly bought at Bar Hill. About 10% of residents frequently used mail order and internet shopping.
- Six businesses responded on shopping: one used Bar Hill mainly; the others also used St Ives/ Huntingdon, Willingham, Cambridge and Longstanton.

## 7.12 Postal services in Longstanton

- Postal deliveries and the speed of delivery were the main concerns. We are now down to one daily delivery only, and the standard of holiday cover for our postmen concerned some. The services provided in the Post Office were well regarded by most, and the location of post boxes was generally thought to be enough, although it was felt that a box is needed in Rampton Road.
- Favourable comments included 'we love Graham' (the Longstanton postmaster) by two people. A request for the Post Office to be open longer was also made. Six businesses rated the services good or satisfactory, but two businesses thought the number of deliveries poor, and also found poor the location and number of post boxes or the speed of deliveries.

## 7.13 Local social facilities

### For all age groups

- The respondents' general view was that social facilities are poor, but less so for under 13's. Over 60's facilities were judged better and the Dale Centre's activities were thought to be 'very good'. Social facilities were felt to be poorest for younger people aged 14-17 and 18-25.

### Facilities for young people you would support or help with:

- Sports facilities, especially a skate-boarding park, and a youth club were popular requests from the 16% of respondents, as well as cubs, brownies, guides and scouts.
- The general opinion was that a safe and teenage-friendly meeting place is needed for youngsters in the village, as parents have to transport their children to local villages for recreational activities: 'If there was something to do in the village I wouldn't have to go elsewhere so much' seemed to sum up the situation.
- Making play parks safer - and perhaps building more - was also mentioned because small children need to feel free from the domination of teenagers who have nowhere to go and tend to congregate there.



Magdalene Close children's play area

**DID YOU KNOW?** A Cambridgeshire Libraries mobile library bus visits Longstanton on alternate Thursday mornings, visiting The Dale at 10.40 - 11.00 and Prentice Close at 11.05 - 11.20. Books and talking books can be on loan for up to 4 weeks; videos for 2 weeks (but up to 4 weeks for Residential Home customers) Contact 0845 9455225 for queries. This service is available to all villagers, young and old alike.

## 7.14 Improvements to shops, pub, Village Institute

- A large number suggested improvements to the pub or the provision of a pub for young people at the St Michael's end of the village to save going to the White Horse in Oakington. Since the questionnaire was sent out, Andy and Chou Tang have taken over The Black Bull Public House in Longstanton and many criticisms may no longer apply.
- Many people would appreciate additional shops and medical and dental facilities in the village.
- Some felt the existing shop should have longer opening hours or that there should be a small supermarket such as a Co-op although Tesco superstore, only two miles away, might prove too competitive.
- Some thought the Village Institute should be modernised and its surroundings improved. Meanwhile the Institute floor has been resurfaced in autumn 2004. Community computer facilities, provided by South Cambs District Council, have now been installed in the Village Institute.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Two new computers with colour printers and scanner, courtesy of the South Cambs Community Access Point scheme, are now available in the Village Institute's 'Internet Café' (back room) on Wednesdays 2.00 – 4.00pm and Fridays 1.00 – 2.00. A charge of 75p will cover computer use and your first cup of tea or coffee and nibble. For further details and to book a time slot contact William on 01954 781621.

## 7.15 Sports and Social Club (currently a private members' club)

- Just over a half had no opinion or did not reply, nearly a half would like to see a broader scope for use of this Club, and less than a tenth did not favour such broader scope. Ideas for improvement were a private function room, the introduction of a

family club night, or the Club's use as a community centre for all. At least twelve people felt the village should run this facility and a fee for this should be added to the Parish Precept each year. It was also suggested that the surface in the car park should be improved and the litter cleaned up.

- Recently, the new Chairman of the Sports & Social Club, Andrew Jeffrey (Andrew.Jeffrey@tesco.net) re-stated the Club's commitment to providing recreational activities for people of all ages to enjoy. Open in the evenings on weekdays, 7.30 - 11.00pm on Saturdays, 2.00 - 11.00pm on Sundays, noon - 10.30pm. The Parish Council have agreed to renew the lease.

## 7.16 Does Longstanton need a multifunctional Community Centre?

- There was support for this from half of respondents, particularly as a centre for teenagers and younger children, although many recognised that this would be expensive to build and the maintenance could be substantial.
- Some felt that we need a centre similar to the Over Community Centre, but others hoped that Longstanton residents could eventually use Northstowe's future Community Centre.

## 7.17 Do young people need a safe venue in Longstanton to meet?

- Nearly three-quarters felt this is a must, against a tiny minority, who opposed this; only a quarter had no opinion or did not respond.
- It was pointed out by many that young people under 18 cannot easily reach venues beyond the village because they lack suitable public transport or their own vehicles.
- Views on what is needed were wide-ranging, from 'a place for teenagers and young people who have no place to go', to all-inclusive family amenities. Some proposed a Youth Club for all age groups, with involvement of parents and the police for safety reasons. Others suggested youth clubs and activities elsewhere in Cambridgeshire as models.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Youth leaders need to be Police vetted and insured. Further information and guidance should be sought from Social Services and the Police.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The Church Conservation Trust's Community development Worker, Verity Stroud, is carrying out a feasibility study in the village to open St Michael's Church as a welcoming space for use by the local community. Interested residents and organisations can contact her on 01279 771478 or Verity53@hotmail.com



- Opinion varied over whether adult supervision was necessary or desirable for any organised meeting place for teenagers.

## 7.18 Future uses of All Saints Church

- In consultation with the clergy, we asked whether All Saints Church should be open for community uses, such as concerts, in addition to religious services. This idea was met favourably by a half but some objections were raised by 10% of respondents. At the moment All Saints Church cannot be used because the roof is unsafe and part of it has fallen in. Insurance claims are being pursued. The RAF memorial window has recently been damaged. Currently Sunday services are held in the Village Institute.
- Some respondents suggested that the housing developers should pay for the Church restoration and addition of other facilities, modelled on community facilities at St Mary's Church, Over. One respondent viewed All Saints as a mausoleum inadequate for community use.

## 7.19 Information Services

- For a huge 85% of respondents, the local magazine Longstanton Life, produced and distributed by a dedicated small team of volunteers, provided most information about village affairs. Email, longstantonlife@hotmail.com, or drop off contributions in The Longstanton Life's own box on the Post Office counter where recent issues of The Longstanton Life can also be found.
- The Post Office window was also recognised as another good source by about a half. A quarter of respondents valued the Parish Church's magazine for Over and Longstanton, Team Talk, and The Cambridge Evening News; about a tenth used local radio, and another tenth the Village notice boards for Parish Council News.
- A circulation to over 160 households via an email link, set up by District Councillor Riley, was noted as a good source of local information. For further details email, alex@alexrileywines.co.uk.
- While news by word of mouth and fliers through the door were recognised as useful, the residents of Bar Road, between Longstanton and Bar Hill, who are not always included in mailings, felt isolated from the village. If better informed, they could enjoy more village activities.



Residents of Bar Road, between Longstanton and Bar Hill, felt isolated from the village

## 8. Local Government Representation

### 8.1 The Parish Council

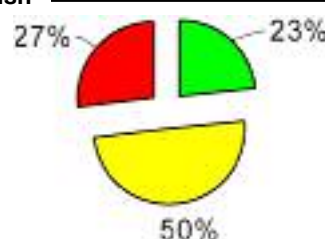
- Only 23% of respondents have attended a Parish Council meeting at some time, usually for information/interest or in connection with important issues for the village e.g. Northstowe, the Immigration Centre and planning matters. Most attending recently agreed that the Council now discusses issues that reflect local questions, particularly over new developments – a primary concern of the village.
- Three-quarters of respondents did not attend the Annual Parish Meeting. However, most residents found that the Parish Council publicises its decisions and activities satisfactorily or well. This is attributed to *Longstanton Life* articles and to the regular e-mail distribution from the Chairman of the Parish Council to over 160 households..

### 8.2 Parish Precept

Q58: How good is the Parish Council at publicising its decisions and activities?

(92% Response Rate)

■ Poor  
■ Good  
■ Satisfactory



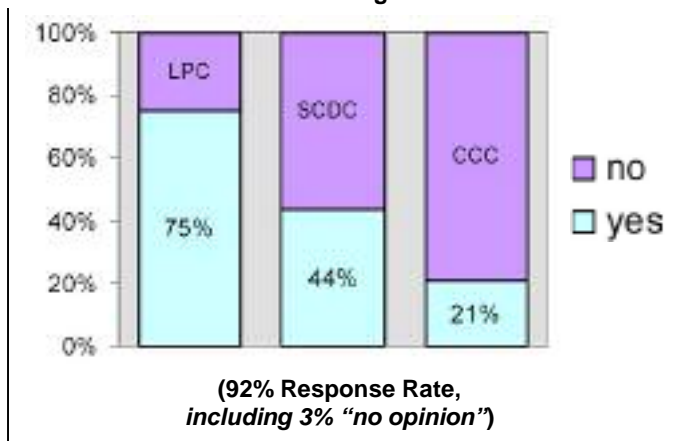
- The Parish Precept is poorly understood by some residents. Most (74%) offered no opinion on how well it was spent. The majority of comments proposed spending more of the Precept on supporting amenities for youth and sport interests in the village.

**DID YOU KNOW?** There are laws and regulations that permit the Parish Council, each financial year, to raise a 'precept' to meet its expenditure and to carry out the needs of the parish. Most of the Council's budget is spent on administration such as paying a clerk, audit fees, subscriptions, insurances, rents, etc. When the Council raises the precept it must budget for this and publish how and where it will spend the money. These decisions are made at Council meetings by resolutions which are minuted to show how the Council has reached its conclusions to approve the expenditure.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Whereas the Parish Precept for Longstanton in 2004-05 was £6,000, in 2005-06 it has been raised to £45,000. Source: Cambridgeshire District Council Guide distributed with Council Tax Bill

## 8.3 South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council

**Q60:** Do you think that your elected representatives in local government are sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings?



- Residents' perceptions of awareness of local concerns and feeling by councillors in different tiers of local government showed an interesting trend in favour of the Parish Council.
- SCDC was referred to as "a new citadel in Cambourne". Both SCDC and Cambridgeshire County Council were not perceived as working in tune with the community but the election of Councillor Riley to South Cambs District Council was perceived as an improvement. Many people were not sure of the difference between Councillors (representatives you elected) and the Councils' officials.

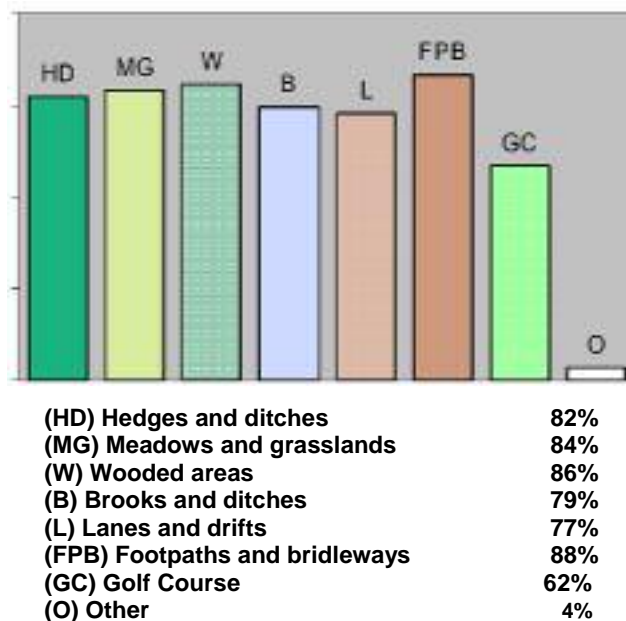
## 9. Environment and Village Landscape Amenities

### 9.1 Protection of existing landscape features in Longstanton

- Over three quarters wanted protection for footpaths and bridleways. [We do have a good range of these, some forming part of the Pathfinder Route]. A similar high proportion valued the small amount of wooded areas that we have.

**Q61:** Do you think any of these existing landscape features in Longstanton need protecting?

(88% Response Rate)



- Well over two-thirds valued other named features: hedges and ditches, meadows and grasslands, brooks, lanes and drifts, and nearly as many valued the Golf Course. Other features singled out for protection by 1-3 people were (most popular first): historic buildings and features; roads; whole village character; lakes and rivers; churches; all green land/ green belt; listed properties; individual mature trees; railway line; cricket/football ground; ponds; roadside verges; 'the Conservation Area + Long Lane'; The Village School; public footpaths through Golf Course; daffodils either side of road at the entrance to the village; tranquillity; and larger buffer zone of parkland 'between us and Northstowe'.

### 9.2 Bulb and tree planting

- A third of respondents were prepared to help with bulb planting and tree planting, and fewer than a tenth said no, but over a half did not reply to the question. Two said they already planted bulbs and trees in Wilson's Road; another planted bulbs if ever the Parish Council provided them. One asked whether children were involved.
- Businesses did not offer to provide help with either task.



School Lane Corner - Daffodils



**DID YOU KNOW?** Many years ago bulbs were planted with the aid of Hatton Park School pupils. The Parish Council ran a competition for designing three display areas. Some can still be seen today, at the entrance to The Dale, in the grassed area at Hatton Park and on the green opposite the Church. The Parish Council was allowed to apply for free trees every autumn from the County Council, but this is a task that has been allowed to lapse and is now being administered by SCDC.

### 9.3 Footpaths and Bridleways

- In response to the question 'Do you know where the local footpaths are?' over half said yes, or 'some', but a third did not know. Two businesses said yes and two no. Requests were made for a map showing local footpaths, displayed outside the Village Institute and/or published in *Longstanton Life* at intervals, perhaps every two years. One person had to use an Ordnance Survey map.

**DID YOU KNOW?** A notice board for a map this very purpose was purchased years ago by the Parish Council but was then used in St Michael's for a Parish Notice Board. Time for a new 'map board'?

- Nearly a half did not feel paths were well signposted and five individuals commented about signs still missing, specifically from the Golf Course.
- When asked if it is possible to use the paths without difficulty, over a third claimed to be able to, but another third only with difficulty; the rest did not reply. Maintenance of overgrown vegetation was an issue for walkers, as was mud and dog mess. It was felt that footpaths are not suitable for small children or the disabled. Five people wanted more routes. One person commented that people should stick to footpaths rather than straying from them.
- Concerns were raised about farm animals. It was also felt that more bridleways are needed to keep the horses off the road for safety. Footpath obstructions were noted in places, and rubbish on the building site on the former Home Farm site was viewed as a disgrace.

### 9.4. Parish Action Plan funding

- When asked about a source for Parish Action Plan funding, over half favoured Council Tax, sometimes along with other sources. Just under half included fundraising and less than a third opted for sponsorship.

- Three businesses replied that Council Tax should be used and two would consider fundraising as well.
- One respondent thought that since Northstowe is imposed by Government dictat its consequences should be dealt with using public funds; this was counterbalanced by the view that Council Tax is too high.

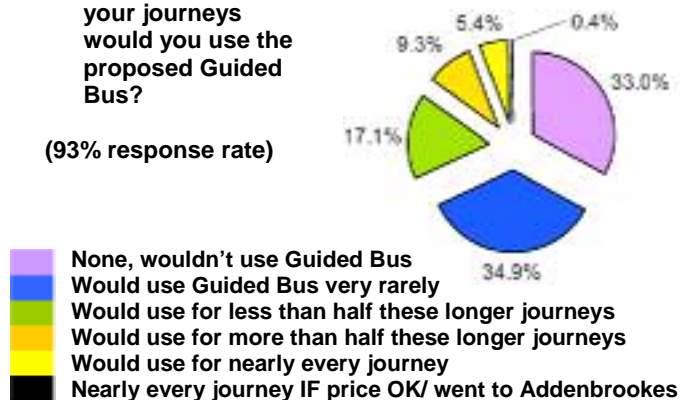
## 10. Transport to and from Longstanton

- The majority of vehicle owners within the village reportedly used them beyond Longstanton for both work and leisure. It is likely that further vehicles are associated with the businesses in the village.

### 10.1 The Guided Bus

Q66: For how many of your journeys would you use the proposed Guided Bus?

(93% response rate)



- The Guided Bus provoked more negative comments than positive. The negative comments related to many issues: difficulties in getting to the stop at the site of Longstanton Station (some pointed out that using a car defeated the object); the proposed route not suiting many residents' travel needs; cost; and reliability issues, as the Bus needs to negotiate the crowded streets of Cambridge for part of its route. Many respondents supported alternatives, using a similar route to the Guided Bus – they proposed rail, or a dedicated road for buses and taxis.



Proposed Guided Bus Way\*



Proposed junction with roads\*

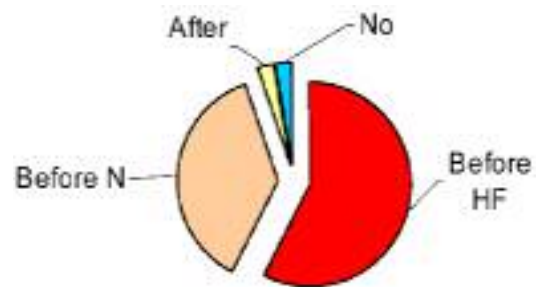
\*Graphics: Cambridge Evening News

Concluded on page 24

- Over 40% of respondents felt that the Guided Bus would impact adversely the local environment and wildlife, while 20% thought it would not impact either. The remainder had no opinion on this, or felt that these issues should be investigated by experts.
- Approximately 20% each thought the Guided Bus may or may not worsen the flood risk within Longstanton.
- There was moderate support for a local relief road parallel to the A14, but others commented on the need for a better A14 (e.g. motorway) rather than another road. Some were concerned about increased noise if the relief road was nearer to the village than the present A14.

**Q68: There has been a proposal for a Parallel Road (parallel to A14) for local traffic. When do you think this should be built?**

(90% Response Rate, including 5% with 'no opinion'/ would not need to use it')



Before Home Farm (HF) development	57%
Before Northstowe (N) development	38%
After these developments above	3%
It is not necessary (NO)	3%

## Entry into Longstanton soon to change ...



A14 looking east from B1050 flyover



A14 looking west from B1050 flyover



Infamous A14 junction to the B1050 at Bar Hill



# Existing Landmarks in Longstanton that are likely to Change in the Near Future



Shephard's Pig Farm, High Street



Village Institute, High Street



Longstanton Sports & Social Club



2nd WW Pill Box, Wilson's Road



Home Farm milking parlour, Over Road



Ex RAF & Army Oakington Main Gate



Remains of Longstanton Railway Station



Hatton Park Primary School



Footpath from St Michael's to Airfield



Brookfield Farm, Rampton Drift



Ex RAF Buildings, Airfield



Crabtree Corner



Home Farm Workers Cottages, High St



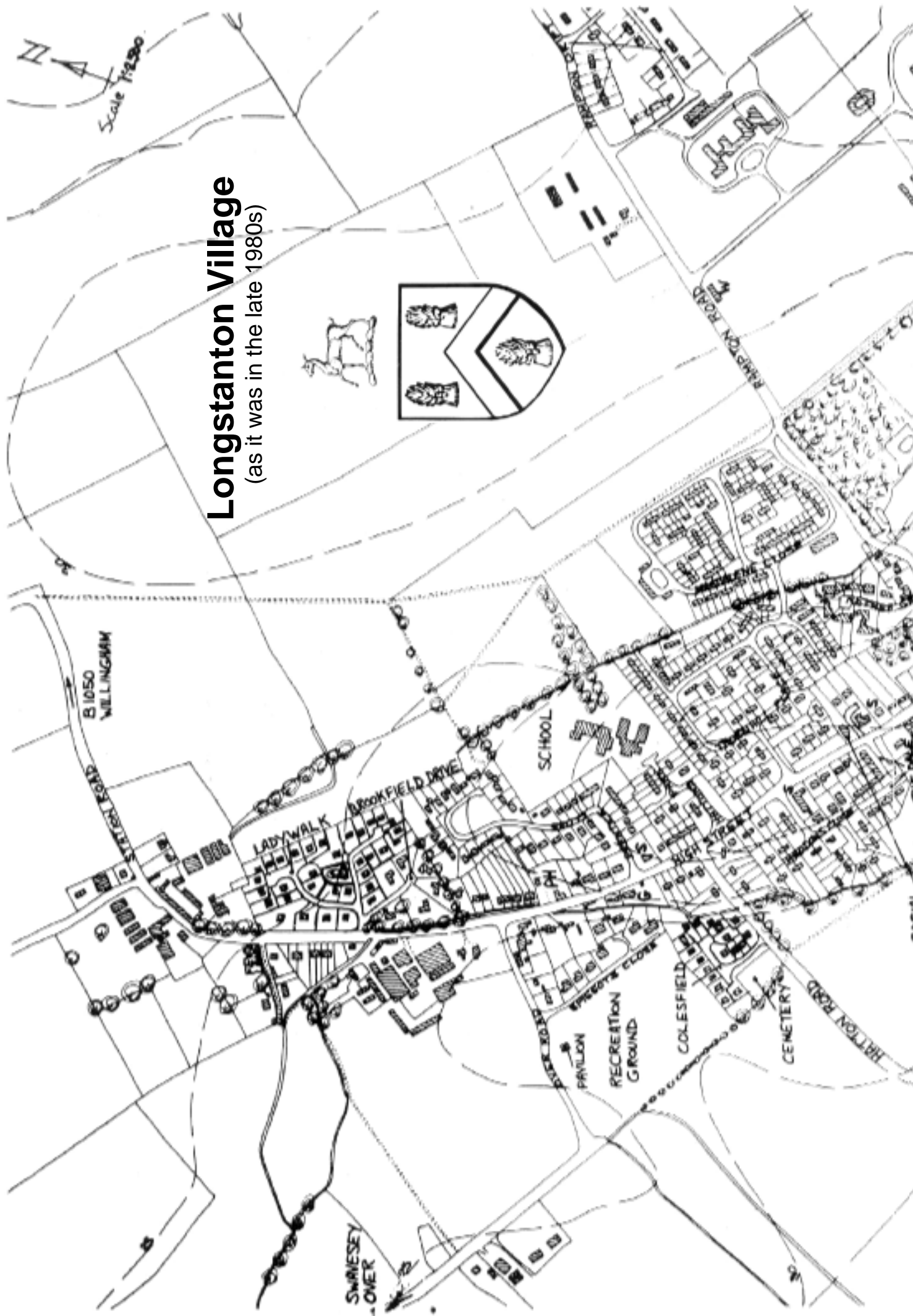
Golf Course Club House, Station Rd



New Close Farm Industrial Estate, Bar Rd

# Longstanton Village

(as it was in the late 1980s)





The village sign, erected at the entrance to The Dale in 1981 to mark the marriage of the Prince of Wales, features a golden hind - from the crest of the Hattons. The name of Sir Francis Drake's ship in which he sailed around the world was changed from the "Pelican" to the "Golden Hind" in recognition of the patronage of Sir Christopher Hatton, Chancellor to Queen Elizabeth I, who was cousin to John Hatton, Lord of the Manor of All Saints.

- PLACE OF WORSHIP ..... W
- PUBLIC HOUSE ..... PH
- SHOP ..... S
- GARAGE ..... G
- PUBLIC FOOTPATH ..... F
- BRIDLEWAY ..... B



# FUTURE

## 1. Home Farm



Home Farm Phase One

### 1.1 Concerns

- Over 90% of residents responded to these questions, and the majority felt that both Home Farm and (particularly) Northstowe would affect the immediate neighbourhood. The main concerns were encroachment on the village, congestion from parking, and increased traffic, particularly from rat-runs.

### 1.2 Compensations

- It was felt that some compensating benefits should come to the village. The majority were in favour of pressing for first class flood defences (74%), greater sewage capacity (71%) and the provision of tree screening and wildlife areas (70%). Furthermore at least half were eager for green separation, upgraded main water supplies, and enhancement of community and sports/leisure facilities in compensation.
- The questions regarding the lack of facilities on the Home Farm development, the bypass, and recreation ground extension were felt to be somewhat loaded. Nevertheless, 77% thought the lack of facilities was unacceptable. The bypass question generated a very mixed response with only a minority (10%) confident that it would be built, but others commenting that it was still urgent, because of heavy lorries on the B1050.
- A clear majority (71%) was in favour of an extension to the recreation ground. The sports most often mentioned were football, tennis, cricket, rugby, and bowls, but fifteen other diverse activities were proposed.

## 2. Northstowe

### 2.1 Rampton Drift

- The question of whether Rampton Drift should remain part of Longstanton generated a majority (64%) in favour. Of these, some felt very strongly that they should not be separated from the village, and made a variety of comments.



Artist Impression of Northstowe's Central Park area showing Guided Bus access

Image © Gallagher

### 2.2 Green Separation from Northstowe

- The questions on separation of Longstanton from Northstowe brought a strong response, with 86% favouring a distance of 200 metres or more, and 73% wanting more than 300 metres.

### 2.3 Toad Acres and Falcon Park

- 65% felt that the mobile home parks at Toad Acres and Falcon Park should receive the same degree of separation. However, qualifying comments emphasised the need for sympathetic treatment for the preservation of the secure and peaceful nature of these localities.



Artist Impression of Northstowe's Town Centre square

Image © Gallagher

### 2.4 Definitions of Green Separation

- A very large proportion (88%) supported the Parish Council's view that the green separation should be public green space (such as woodland, grassland or water parkland) and not school playing fields, allotments, cemeteries, sports pitches or back-to-back gardens.
- The prevalent theme of comments was the preservation of Longstanton's village character. This meant that the open spaces should be carefully thought out and properly designed as an integral part of the Northstowe development – not an afterthought.
- Several raised the question of responsibility for the longer term maintenance of such spaces, and voiced concerns about their potential misuse by travellers.

### 2.5 Use of adjacent areas

- The preferred use of the areas of Northstowe closest to Longstanton was evenly split between shopping/leisure and residential areas. These choices appeared to be influenced by concerns about noise, and a fear of envelopment that could threaten the identity of the village.

## 2.6 Desired facilities

- The facilities required to be available in Northstowe were first a good range of High Street shops, and second, leisure facilities. Of these, a swimming pool, cinema/theatre, a sports/leisure centre and a decent pub were the favourites.
- These were closely followed by doctors, dentists, medical and emergency services, restaurants, schools, a golf course, a bank/building society and cash points, a library, and public transport.
- Many other desirable facilities were mentioned, including a park or country park.

## 2.7 Access to Northstowe

- The response to this question was very clear: no direct road access from Northstowe to Longstanton.
- Dual cycle and pedestrian access was strongly favoured at 61%, followed by countryside footpaths (53%) and bridleways (21%).
- Three important aspects of these access routes were emphasised:
  - a. they must be well lit, and routed so that they do not become 'rapist designated areas' (as such routes are perceived in Milton Keynes or Peterborough);
  - b. they should be suitable for children to cycle or walk to school, avoiding the need for short-distance car journeys;
  - c. mopeds, cyclists and pedestrians should be safely separated;

## 2.8 Emergency Services available in Northstowe

- This elicited very clear views, with 80% (and many business respondents) wanting a police station. About two-thirds wanted a fire station, and just over half wanted a hospital with an A & E department, and similarly an ambulance station.

# 3. Water Management in Longstanton

## 3.1 Flood mitigation options

- At present, the Longstanton Brook's overall capacity to drain surface (rain) water is not sufficient to prevent occasional flooding in the village. Four-fifths of our respondents agreed that new settlements will put further pressure on the Brook.
- Opinion was evenly divided between enlarging the Brook, diverting it west of the village or installing an electric pump. 15% favoured a combination of these strategies.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Uttons Drove Sewage Treatment Works, serving Cambourne, Girton, Oakington and Bar Hill, contributes to increasing the water levels by discharging the treated water into Longstanton Brook via the Swavesey Drain. Uttons Drove is at present working above its capacity - nevertheless the authorities are proposing to add Home Farm and Northstowe developments to it, because the Over Treatment Works does not have sufficient capacity to cope with additional sewage.

## 3.2 Residents' experience of flooding

- Among our respondents, forty households have suffered from flooding, predominately due to surface water run offs, with one house affected at least 10 times from 1999 to 2004.
- Ten houses and one business premises experienced sewage flooding; eight properties and a garden suffered from subsidence as a result of flooding in 2001.
- Eleven houses have decreased in value; nine insurance premiums have increased, and at least two people either could not renew their insurance or were refused a policy.

## 3.3. Agencies' advice and help

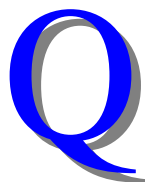
- Advice on flood prevention or affects, by South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Environment Agency, was generally thought to be unsatisfactory. Very few affected people contacted the lesser known organisation Water Voice but some found it helpful.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Longstanton Brook is a major watercourse that starts just north of Bar Hill and links to many minor watercourses. It runs through Longstanton, joins the Swavesey Drain, running west of Over before joining the River Great Ouse at Webb's Hole sluice gate. It is vital that this watercourse is well maintained in order to keep the land drained and prevent villages such as Longstanton from flooding.



Longstanton Brook in the High Street: Left, close to the Black Bull culvert; right, close to the Home Farm culvert - both the sites of severe flooding in the past and the cause of misery to the residents of Colesfield





# LONGSTANTON PARISH PLAN - 2005

## PROPOSALS FOR AN ACTION PLAN

Submitted to Longstanton PC on behalf of Longstanton Parishioners

Priority Keys: S = short (1 year) M = medium (2 to 5 years) L = long (5 to 10 years)

### NORMAL PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS\*

On Monday 11th July, 2005 the Parish Plan Committee submitted to your Parish Council the proposed Action Plan for Longstanton. These actions have been formulated as the result of your questionnaire answers, detailed comments and further feedback. Without these the plan would not have been possible, thank you. (The identical Proposed Action Plan was subsequently published in Longstanton Life, Vol.5 No.4) The proposals have not as yet been adopted by the Parish Council, so you should be aware that some of them may not be implemented. If you have a comment to make about any of these proposals, you can direct it to the Parish Council, using their drop-box in the village shop.

Business & Employment	Priority
1. Business directory issued once a year to all residents	M*
2. Work opportunities within the community	S
3. Provision of village crèche facilities, particularly for single and working parents	S*
Highways & Footpaths	Priority
1. a) Fully liaise with Rights of Ways Officer, developers and authorities when new footpaths are planned for access to & from Home Farm & Northstowe: most Longstanton actual footpaths may be lost to developments b) Establish a long term management structure for funding the maintenance of all future new footpaths between Longstanton and Northstowe	S*
2. Full / safe access to future Northstowe's facilities and secondary school: cycle paths	S*
3. Publish a map of footpaths and bridleways outside the Village Institute; and in the Longstanton Life once a year	S*
4. Replace footpath signs in the Golf Course	S*
5. Improve reporting on footpaths maintenance liaising with Rights of Ways	S*
6. Improve the response to snow clearance for the B1050	S*



Old Village Snow Plough in the grounds of Hatton Park School

Conservation	Priority
1. a) Preserve, protect and enhance Longstanton Conservation areas; trees; rural features (hedgerows, fields, paddock, footpaths etc.). b) Establish a guaranteed green separation of at least 200 metres between Longstanton and Northstowe, free of urban use amenities/facilities. c) Seek implementation of a long term management structure for the funding of maintenance	S*
2. Obtain confirmation that Home Farm and Green End Farm developers will deal with: wild life protection, tree screening, hedgerows, extension of recreational green ground, tree re-planting	S*
Environmental Health	Priority
a) Erect 'No Fly Tipping' signs at key points b) Publish the penalties c) Erect sign 'No Fouling from Dogs' in St Michael's leading to the Airfield Rd d) Publish the penalties e) Increase number of dog litter bins, one at end of St Michael's to the airfield Rd f) Challenge dog fouling	S* S* S* S* M* M*
2. Set up a village litter picking day twice a year and make it the occasion for a sponsorship event for selected community needs	M*
3. Improve ditches maintenance and provision for the clearance of ditch debris and rubbish	S*
4. Challenge littering	S*
5. a) Increase black wheelie bins collection to a greater frequency in hot summers b) Set a plastic recycling point in the village	a) S* b) M*
6. Set up new litter bins at the end of Station Road, at Wilson's Road, Thornhill Close, Magdalene Place & Home Farm	S*
Sport & Recreation	Priority
1. Provision of two floodlit tennis courts and a floodlit practice wall for the tennis club	M*
2. Replacement of the Longstanton 'Cambridge Golf Course' before developments start	M*



# LONGSTANTON PARISH PLAN - 2005

## PROPOSALS FOR AN ACTION PLAN

Submitted to Longstanton PC on behalf of Longstanton Parishioners



Priority Keys: S = short (1 year) M = medium (2 to 5 years) L = long (5 to 10 years)

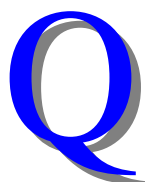
### NORMAL PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS\*

Youth	Priority
1. Provide a Skate Board park for young people in a designated and safe recreational area	M*
2. Get funding for better equipment and a permanent base for toddlers groups	S/M*
3. Investigate employing a Youth Worker to supervise recreational Youth activities	S*
4. Research the facilities/activities offered to young people 14 to 25 in other villages and emulate successful models	S*
5. Prevent the abuse of children's play areas by older children	S*
6. Open a multifunctional community centre with a café including young people	M*
7. Provide a club for young people aged 12 to 17, with a full set of indoor amenities	M*
Community Safety	Priority
1. Greater Police visibility on the streets of Longstanton	S*
2. Seek Police involvement in educational visits to tackle antisocial behaviour	S*
3. Regular 'open house' meetings with the village Police Officer	S*
4. Re-invigorate 'neighbourhood watches schemes'	S*
Transport, Parking, Road Safety and Road Improvement	Priority
1. Ensure that proper crossing points are provided in the High Street in concert with traffic calming measures (High Street & B1050/High Street)	S*
2 Study the parking difficulties : High St, Hatton's park to All Saint's, including provision for the disabled	S/M*



Bramble Cottage,  
High Street

Transport, Parking, Road Safety and Road Improvement (continued)	Priority
3. a) Increased frequency reliability & routes of local b uses b) Buses Availability, fares and information targeting OAP c) Study of bus access, stops and comfort for the disabled and those with pushchairs	S*
4. Study the use of Community bus to Willingham and Over surgeries on specific days	S*
5. a) Survey of pavements in need of repair, and of potholes b) Implement road drainage along Woodside/St. Michael's	S*
6. Better maintenance of overhanging branches over the roads	S
7. Cycle paths along the B1050 to Bar Hill & through to Willingham and Over	M*
8. a) Maintain access to Oakington along the Airfield road for cyclists and pedestrians during road access construction to Northstowe and b) Reinstate late bus service to Longstanton via Bar Hill during road construction	M* M*
9. Cycle racks at Post Office, Village Institute, Sports and Social Club, of the 'Sheffield' tubular steel design (not 'concrete slot')	S*
10. Construction of the Longstanton Western bypass	S
11. Seek the implementation of a co-ordinated road infrastructure before all developments start, including A14 upgrade plans	S*
12. Study of inadequate street lighting along Rampton Road, Woodside, St Michael's	S*
13. Making speed calming traffic measures more effective	S*
14. Additional lanes to the B1050, including cycle and pedestrian lanes, to cater for increased traffic	S/M*
15. Study of north Willingham bypass with roundabouts between Over & Willingham, Swavesey & Longstanton, to alleviate increase in local/Northstowe and Fenland traffic on the B1050 by 2016	M/L*



# LONGSTANTON PARISH PLAN - 2005

## PROPOSALS FOR AN ACTION PLAN

Submitted to Longstanton PC on behalf of Longstanton Parishioners

Priority Keys: S = short (1 year) M = medium (2 to 5 years) L = long (5 to 10 years)

### NORMAL PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS\*

Education	Priority
<b>Primary:</b>	
1. Parking & rebuilding plans for Hattons Park: to be shown to the public (display)	<b>S</b>
2. Parenting advice and school discipline support	<b>S</b>
3. Investigation of extra curricular activities provided by School, parents & Community	<b>S</b>
4. Use of the Community Bus to Transport children to a swimming pool & nearby sports facilities	<b>S</b>
<b>Secondary:</b>	
5. Provide community transport for young people to reach sport and cultural facilities in local village colleges	<b>S</b>
<b>Adult:</b>	
1. Better Information re: Village Colleges/Cambridge courses	<b>S*</b>
2. Investigate evening use of Community Bus to Swavesey, Impington and Cottenham Colleges	<b>S*</b>
<b>Housing</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Encourage the development of low cost housing in the village	<b>S*</b>
<b>Health</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Provision for a doctor surgery in Longstanton	<b>S*</b>
2. Distribute clear information about dental, medical and paramedical services for the area	<b>S*</b>

Parish Council Information and Communication	Priority
1. Develop all means of coordinated communication between all major village bodies to facilitate the coordination of initiatives of common interest	<b>S*</b>
2. Further develop the role of the Longstanton Life as a means of publishing all relevant community information and as a vehicle to convey fragmented information from other sources	<b>S*</b>
3. Develop an independent Longstanton web-site, updated twice yearly	<b>S*</b>
4. Develop a guide to all public services, publish it in the Longstanton Life once a year, display it on a community board at the Village Institute	<b>S*</b>
5. Implement an central information point to be regularly updated	<b>S*</b>
6. Publish a village diary of events for the year, updated every 6 months	<b>S*</b>
7. Consider having two Parish meetings a year, not one APM, every 6 months, due to the large amount of important changes the village needs to be consulted about on a more regular basis	<b>S*</b>
8. Publish the Annual Parish Meeting minutes electronically and on notice boards no later than 4 weeks before the next APM, so that residents have the time to read them before being asked to approve them	<b>S*</b>
9. Advertise the existence of PC and Longstanton Life boxes, encouraging parishioners to use them to communicate queries to the PC. Place a second PC box at the Sports and Social Club.	<b>S*</b>



New Medical Surgery on Magdalene Close

© BBC



Parish Council Chairman, Alex Riley, 'as seen on TV' (BBC Looking East). Subject - Immigration Centre  
8/9/2003

# LONGSTANTON PARISH PLAN - 2005

## PROPOSALS FOR AN ACTION PLAN

Submitted to Longstanton PC on behalf of Longstanton Parishioners

Priority Keys: S = short (1 year) M = medium (2 to 5 years) L = long (5 to 10 years)



### NORMAL PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS\*

Church	Priority
<b>All Saints'</b>	
1. Repair damage to return All Saints' to full use	<b>S</b>
2. Support the use of All Saints' as a venue for concerts and cultural events	<b>M/L</b>
<b>St. Michael's</b>	
3. Support the opening of St Michael's for varied community uses to complement the Village Institute and the future multi-functional Village Centre	<b>L</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Set up a 'Best kept village' initiative	<b>M*</b>
2. Re-create a gardening club in partnership with neighbouring villages (Willingham)	<b>S</b>
3. Set up a Gardens Open Day in late June	<b>S</b>
4. Set up a Post Box in Rampton Road	<b>S*</b>
5. Consult with the Post master about longer opening hours on specific days	<b>S</b>
6. Examine the future use of the Village Institute	<b>S/M*</b>



Left: All Saints' church, landmark centre of Longstanton, in need of so much help



Right: St Michaels' church Longstanton, at a turning point in its history

The full technical report analysing the Longstanton village 2004 Questionnaire has been published by the Parish Plan Committee in the form of a CD (in Acrobat pdf format), copies of which were issued to all the major stakeholders in the future of the village. This CD is also available for anyone to view at the Village Institute computer facility. Help will be on hand for those who need assistance to view.

Future Developments	Priority
<b>Home Farm</b>	
1. Obtain compensation from developers for flood defence, improved sewage capacity, electricity supply upgrading	<b>M*</b>
2. Investigate & rectify the unreliability of the village electricity supply	<b>S*</b>
3. Obtain from the developers support for the construction of a new multifunctional village community Centre	<b>S*</b>
4. Review the need for Home Farm's 6.3ha business park in view of planning for business parks in Northstowe	<b>M*</b>
<b>Northstowe</b>	
Northstowe's secondary school and sixth Form college catchment area to include Longstanton	<b>L*</b>
<b>Water management</b>	
1. Enlargement of Longstanton Brook	<b>S/M*</b>
2. Diversion of the brook west of Longstanton	<b>S*</b>
3. Installation of a pump assisted system of water management	<b>S/M*</b>
4. Provision of proper flood defences	<b>S/M*</b>
5. Upgrading of sewage drains	<b>S/M*</b>
6. Seek implementation of water management infrastructure before house building starts	<b>S/M*</b>

Should you feel you would like to own a copy of the CD, these are available NOW on demand, price £1, from the Secretary Françoise Close (fyclose@aol.com or 07773388591) or from the Chairman Sylvia Hicks, tel. 780840.





# New Landmarks in Longstanton that are in the process of Change



Wimpey's Home Farm Phase 2, under construction, Over Road



Persimmon's Home Farm Phase 1, under construction, Over Road



Home Farm Phase 1, first Persimmon homes completed, High Street



Home Farm Phase 2 development, first Wimpey homes completed, Over Road



New Village Green part of Persimmon's Home Farm Phase 1 development, High Street



Southern end of Home Farm 'Haul Road', looking towards Longstanton



Home Farm Phase 1 development, Persimmon Homes, as seen from the new roundabout, Over Road



Bar Hill - New B1050 Roundabout, looking towards Longstanton



Bar Hill - New B1050 Roundabout, looking towards Bar Hill / A14



Home Farm 'Haul Road', looking left School Lane/ Bar Road junction

# YOUR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS - AN OVERVIEW

- One in ten of all respondents freely recorded further additional comments on their questionnaires' blank pages. The length, depth, diversity and passion of these personal views show appreciation for the opportunity to express them and the hope they will be noticed and acted upon.
- The majority of these comments reinforced and/or conveyed personal experience of the opinions given in the responses to the main questions. However, recurrent and additional issues, woven into these comments, need to be highlighted:
- Support for Longstanton's identity and the preservation of its peaceful, safe and quiet quality of life was a major running theme. The sheer scale and proximity of the planned urban development of Northstowe, rejected by most as unsuitable, was thus seen as a threat against the village's established rural character.
- More than 'adequate' green separation was a major requirement for all houses in Longstanton, as was the preservation and protection of conservation areas and the golf course.
- Although some respondents gave a guarded welcome for the development of Northstowe, this was coloured either by fatalistic cynicism for the developers' undeclared planning goals and financial interests, or by demands for the benefits of future Northstowe's amenities to outweigh the negative impact of the new town on the community of Longstanton.
- Tied to this issue was the Home Farm developers' lack of agreed additional facilities for the village. Residents were extremely concerned that the near doubling of the village population will severely impact on Longstanton's existing but often inadequate facilities for schooling, policing, health provision, and leisure and cultural provision. Also drainage and flooding mitigation, congestion from parking, road access and safety, the preservation of fauna, flora, footpaths and byways, were all strong, recurrent concerns.
- Many residents were convinced that the future needs of a large, motorised population at Home Farm, and later at Northstowe, will thus either compound existing problems or create new ones for the village. In particular, the issue of vastly increased traffic access to the already heavily congested A14, along the narrow and unsafe B1050, loomed large. The overall, forcefully expressed view was that no development should take place until the A14 has been upgraded and the feeder bypass to the Home Farm site west of the village has been built, while the lack of planning for a proper road infrastructure in this area should be exposed
- Respondents held all local authorities responsible for the future of Longstanton. While the present Parish Council was mainly seen as competent, forward looking and more informative than its predecessors, the County Council and District Council were viewed as weak partners, manipulated

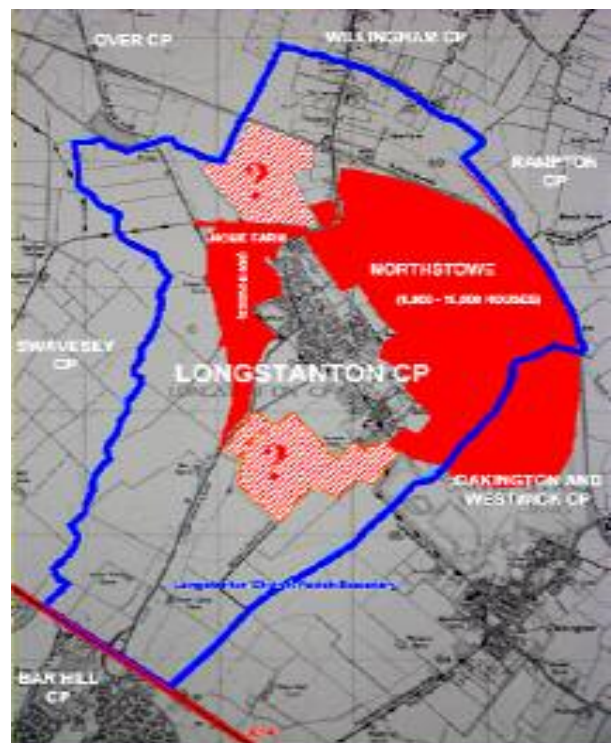
by both the Government's directives and developers' commercial interests.

- Transparency and accountability from the local authorities and the developers alike were expected from the respondents of this village appraisal.

## Selection of Additional Comments Extracted from Full Technical Report

- **No to Northstowe and It's Unsuitability:** "The best option for [former] barracks is a Community Park for both people and wildlife to enjoy"; "would it not be better to develop those areas of our cities that are decaying and not used to best advantage?" and "Any expansion of Northstowe must not be allowed to encroach further west towards the A14. If it did Longstanton would be marooned, and inevitably consumed by the enlarged town, this is clearly illustrated [albeit speculatively] on the front cover of this questionnaire. In our opinion Longstanton should remain a separate settlement."
- **With concerns about safety:** "have attended a number of the exhibitions and displays and at no time have I heard anything of the testing the ground following its wartime usage. It may be that the ground is contaminated with waste lubricants and ... discarded munitions" and another "what might be buried in the airfield site? Fuel, unexploded bombs etc? Can we be sure this will be fully investigated?"
- **I do not accept the Central Govt case** for huge development on the scale proposed by the Deputy Prime Minister.

Continued on page 36



Map clearly showing the extent of the developments, virtually encircling the village, that will change the Longstanton Church Parish Boundary forever

- **There is total lack of facilities for children of any age,** Over for Brownies; Willingham for Beavers. There is nothing for older children and teenagers, pitiful compared with Over. It is a shame there is no annual village event on the Recreation Ground to bring everyone together. Longstanton is pretty apathetic on the whole.... I feel sorry for children and young people in Longstanton. I as an adult go out of the village for leisure activities, there is nothing that attracts me here.

- **As a family we feel very sad that the identity of Longstanton as a village will be lost.** We will not be a rural village but a small and overwhelmed part of a big town, as has happened to many other villages. I am not convinced there is a need for so many houses. I am also not convinced of the wisdom of the guided bus, as so many young people need to use their cars during the day for work purposes. I would also like to know the definition of 'affordable housing' in today's climate of rising house prices, and what is 'affordable' for young people starting out. Since we moved to Cambridgeshire 25 years ago the area has become more suburban, and it does not seem we value rural communities, but attempt to destroy them by development and building. Would it not be better to develop those areas of our cities that are decaying and not use to best advantage? I feel very sad for Longstanton because over the years the community has been faced with so many unwanted changes. The main events are listed below:

The RAF arrived in 1941. Despite the extremely noisy night flying it integrated well into the village and even created some welcome employment. After RAF left, the Army moved in. Unlike its predecessor the various battalions did not mix particularly well with local people and were insular.

Following the departure of the Army we had the Immigration Reception Centre forced upon us with its inevitable increase in village traffic. In addition the regular drone of the helicopter night searches has made many village residents uneasy and fearful of escapees. And now it would appear that we are to be surrounded – and probably engulfed – by a new town, Northstowe.

This massive development has again been forced upon Longstanton and is something residents do not want. Longstanton is a peaceful community steeped in history and interest. Obviously all villages must change and move with the times but Longstanton has had far more than its fair share of hurdles to cope with. I really do hope that Longstanton can survive this onslaught, keep its identity and values and continues to be a nice, close-knit community. It certainly deserves it.

- The golf course should stay where it is. Previously it was farmland and should not be developed.
- Traffic is a problem. Are the current 'calming' measures adequate? Cannot understand why there are gates in and out of the village.
- I have lived in this area all of my life and I like the individuality of the villages. I do not want to become a suburb. The areas as such as the airfield have a lot of history and I want my son to learn of this. I just see this becoming a Harlow or Stevenage. All these houses will just worsen the flood percentage and destroy a great deal of the natural beauty that currently surrounds us. The doctors, shops and facilities cannot cope now with the amount of people. Home farm, with no facilities, will worsen this, crime and vandalism will increase, children will be bored because of the lack of public transport and facilities on offer to them and it will have a knock-on effect on the other villages including Longstanton. We only have

2 pubs within 2 villages and the influx of people will be astronomical. We moved to be in a village, we want to stay a village and for our son to be and grow in a village environment with a close community. No suburbia as we will become. **DO NOT LET DEVELOPMENT GO AHEAD, LEAVE US ALONE!**

- **I feel that Northstowe, as such, is not the immediate problem;** we are through our new Parish Council at last, engaging in meaningful discussions with South Cambridgeshire District Council, Gallagher Estates and others. I am more confident of being able to influence the outcome than I have been for years. The problem is the piecemeal development we face within the Home Farm footprint that gained outline planning permission in October 2000, days before current environmental requirements came into force. Why this was allowed to happen is 'water under the bridge' however, it would pay us to reflect on the basic reason that is partially still with us – disenfranchisement by local politicians and landowners who are out to line their own pockets. The social effects of having some 300 extra homes added to Longstanton's community of only 700 some households, a mere three years ago, have not fully worked through: the village's 40 year old sewerage system was the first to be tested when Anglian Water simply connected all these extra houses in without telling us! Thankfully, other services were not so stretched by the need to accommodate the Annington Homes conversion of the MOD properties for civilian use. However, the result of the additional 500 plus homes (With John Prescott's 'rule of thumb' of 50 homes per hectare we could be faced with an eventual 1050 homes!), within the village envelope on the Home Farm dormitory site, looks like an environmental disaster in the making: It's not only the absolute number of homes that are worrying – taken with the Annington Homes it represents at least a doubling of Longstanton's inherent households, since 2000 but it is to be built on our natural floodplain and will generate significantly more traffic on our already congested road network. Home Farm will load Longstanton's service infrastructure and what will it bring to the village in return, in the way of social amenities? It will eventually become a suburb of Northstowe completing the encirclement of Longstanton to the north but will it take the old village of Longstanton with it? Home Farm could also be seen as a socially irresponsible exercise, in so much as profit margins are being traded against the hopes of our children to afford starter homes. What of the future? Because of scale of the development, that will not only affect us but all the villages around, I believe we should start building bridges with immediate neighbours: Swavesey are desperately worried about the effects of all that concrete that is about to be plugged in to the floodplain that is Home Farm; Bar Hill, while holding the key to the flooding in Oakington area, are concerned themselves with effects that the increased traffic on the B1050 will have on their ability to access the outside world; Willingham will also find themselves increasingly under pressure from more traffic using the B1050 – a real bypass should be our common aim; Oakington share our concerns over separation issues but have their own worries – increased traffic is inevitable along their exit roads to Cottenham and Dry Drayton; Cottenham have reason to have their own concerns about flooding. Finally, my thoughts are basically of gratitude to the Parish Plan Committee for having been given the opportunity at last as a long term resident of Longstanton to legitimately express my feelings on such a wide range of issues within the Questionnaire.



- **Lessons Well Learnt In Longstanton.** The piecemeal development of the 500 houses known as Home Farm Development presents opportunities for unscrupulous developers to avoid and distort mandatory requirements set out in the original planning permission. These original requirements were the building blocks on which the spirit and intent of the planning permission was founded and the basis on which the Parish, County and District Council sought approval from the general public through their elective representatives. The impact of the Home Farm Development on the village of Longstanton, if mismanaged, will degrade the village even further than the negative effects of the 2001 flooding. Based on the machinations surrounding the 91 "Phase 1" homes the interests of the community are to take second place to the interests of the developers. If this proves to be the case then any long term positive spin off from the Northstowe development is unlikely to restore the Village to its present let alone post flooding status. The worst-case scenario is that Longstanton will assume the status of a declining residential area on the outskirts of Northstowe. We are in the fortunate position of having a strong dedicated Parish Council. This Council has behind it a number of sub-committee which are both articulate and professional. On the down side Parish Councils are little frogs in the big pond of District, County and national politics. The past history of village apathy, before the revitalization of the Parish Council, allowed unscrupulous "entrepreneurs" to pervert the democratic process to their own ends and their ill gotten gains are irreversible and to the detriment of the village. Resorting to litigation as an alternative to the democratic processes of local government can undermine these processes while legal fat cats get fatter on public funds. During the litigation procedures individual members of the legal profession have taken the opportunity to demonstrate their contempt for ordinary folk. Divide and Conquer is a well tried strategy. Planning is governed by a plethora of elected committees and government departments with ill defined boundaries. There is no overall authority which can effectively police planning permissions. Manipulation of this situation by unscrupulous developers is a recognised profession. There is serious doubt as to the will and ability of the new Citadel in Cambourne to represent the best interests of the villagers in Longstanton
- It is about time the police parked their cars and took a slow walk round the estates in the village and stopped and spoke to the young children who ... damage the surrounding properties with their footballs, more late night patrols should be carried out to deal with the drunks who find it a laugh to pull plants up and cause a nuisance with their noise. The bottom line is we pay enough council tax for their service so let's get the service.
- **Being sited just off the B1050 between Longstanton and Bar Hill we are quite isolated from the village.** It only seems to be local elections and questionnaires that send people from the village down our road! We would probably be more involved if we were better informed. The B1050 is a fast and busy road at the best of times. I can only see an increase in traffic noise and pollution from the developments at Northstowe and Home farm. It can take 5 minutes in rush hour just to leave our road at present; the increased pressure on the road can only make the situation worse. Our views towards Oakington will be changed dramatically by the Northstowe development; I believe we can look forward to a view of balancing lakes and the access road! Whilst I am not opposed to new development I do feel that there is a huge risk to the villages. There is a danger of them losing

their identity and becoming a sprawling suburb of Cambridge. Northstowe should not have been allowed to be sited so close to existing villages. Thanks for listening.

- Firstly I do not accept the Central Govt case for huge development on the scale proposed by the Deputy Prime Minister. New 'towns' such as Northstowe need careful planning over many years and must not be rushed into. Milton Keynes has been developed over 40 years and a similar time span for others is more realistic. Where no infrastructure exists as in the case of Northstowe, it needs to be near existing main roads (e.g. the A10). The A14 is currently oversubscribed by non local traffic. Developments around local villages including new roads in this area need to be strictly controlled to preserve the character of the village/communities or they will be lost for ever. Developers view new developments as a way to make money by selling as many houses as possible and give scant regard to how such developments can be sustained in future after the house building is complete. Cambourne currently has very few facilities given its projected size and will take a long time for these to materialize if ever. Why should Northstowe be any different? Local villages have been losing long established facilities for years (shops, pubs).
- Secondly, with the best will in the world, there is no way a development of this size can be kept separate from Longstanton/Oakington unless a minimum of 1-2 miles separation is maintained. The town is about the size of Ely, no separate village could exist so close to Ely without it being regarded as a part of the City. The golf course at Longstanton was supposed to have been designated as a local amenity at the behest of the local residents. I wasn't aware that it is possible to build on a local amenity. So much for the views of local people. Government thinking on transport is also muddled. Like it or not we have become independent on the car. The only way this situation can be reversed would be major change in lifestyles – which is not going to happen – by the majority of the population. People need cars; they are not a luxury (as some would have it). Having bought a car, paid tax insurance and repairs, owners are not going to leave them at home. The Government keeps petrol and parking costs high and keeps trying to restrict usage with traffic calming and other measures, but the convenience factor will always outweigh other considerations. The Guide Bus route is an ill-conceived idea. It will not work because: People will not leave their cars at home or drive them to a parking lot in sufficient numbers to use a bus especially in inclement weather. There is not enough population who would want to use this bus given its route. Existing buses are very empty during the day. There is no successful precedent for a guided bus in any other place in the UK. The extensive work required would be destructive to wildlife. Use of a railway would be a better option. The track is mostly still there and it would be faster/cleaner and would link up with the east coast mainline. For examples see European countries that make good use of rail for freight as well as passenger traffic. The plan will not relieve traffic on the A14 which is caused by traffic, mostly lorries passing through the area to and from the ports and the Midlands/North. The route does not go to Cambridge city centre. It is therefore not going to appeal to many potential passengers, unless the idea is to remove existing buses and add to journey length.

- **With regards to Rampton Drift becoming part of Northstowe**, we would just like to point out that my husband and myself grew up in a town, however it was our wish to live in a village, after many years of moving home every two years or so due to my husband being in the army; we were very happy to buy a house and settle down in Longstanton village because we had no wish to live in a town again. We would like Rampton Drift to continue to be part of Longstanton; we do not wish to live in a town. We have our home and have no desire to move, we understand that there is a need for more housing in Cambridgeshire but we fail to understand why this need should change where we live, we should be allowed to remain living in a village, this was our choice and it should not be taken away from us.
- **I fail to understand the government policy that so many new houses should be built in the Eastern region.** It seems folly that there are areas within the UK that are woefully under populated, such as I believe Peterborough and Corby to be, but there appear to be scant resources devoted to regenerating these areas to retain or attract population. Instead Mr. Prescott seems to want to sink the East Anglian peninsula into the sea under the weight of concrete. There seems to be no regard whatsoever to the existing inhabitants that are being squeezed out of their way of life. However we are absolutely powerless to influence these decisions that wreak such havoc on our lifestyles in the guise of progress. Local planning was granted to build six new homes on two tiny, but delightful, green spaces in Rampton Drift where we live. As I type this I am being aurally assaulted by some huge concrete cutting machine in operation on the building site behind my house, the heavy trucks with trailers turning on the narrow road have already destroyed some of my neighbours' beloved plants as well as messing up the road surface. I mention this as it is a taste of the noise, mess and disruption we can all look forward to, and to reiterate the folly of these decisions. Why for goodness sake was it deemed that we needed six further houses within a stone's throw of a site where a prospective ten thousand homes are to be built? We have lost two wonderful tiny green spaces in return for a much more crowded area without enough road for the residents of the new and existing homes to drive past each other. Was greed anything to do with it? Having seen Cambourne, I am concerned about the style of the new houses. Whilst I agree that the military, responsible for many of the houses here, were not the most sensitive of architects, I fear that we will have yet again the cheapest and nastiest designs, in bright orange brick, imposed upon us without regard to style. The thought of the A14 post development fills me with fear; I am unconvinced that a Parallel Road will be built, as sadly in England we tend to do things "on the cheap" and if government can get away with not building it they will. After all, I don't imagine many ministers have to suffer the intolerable dangers and delays that we are subjected to on an all too regular basis. I have no confidence at all in the guided bus alternative. I believe that it will be a massive waste of our money. I cannot see how the buses can accommodate the numbers of passengers that will need to use it; if it is remotely similar to the current regular bus service, it will be unreliable, uncomfortable and expensive, which will result in more car usage. Why don't we use the train line for a train service? The train can accommodate many more commuters; we could even cycle to the station, maybe put our bikes on the train and then cycle to our final destination when we leave the

train!!! What a revolutionary idea! I have major concerns over water supplies, as well as flooding. We live in one of the driest parts of the UK, so where will all the extra water supplies come from? We will need an awful lot more. How and where will all the extra sewage be treated? Are we going to get a nasty smelly farm here too? At the moment the wildlife (as we do) enjoys relatively light pollution-free night skies and I am saddened that we will lose that too. If we must have new homes built here, I fail to understand why the development cannot be spread north of the railway line: a sensible solution to the density problem. I want a good-sized buffer zone (not playing fields, not burial grounds, allotments or gardens) around our village, which stays protected from future development. I do not want high-rise buildings, cinemas, the same old shops that we see in the City Centre and duplicated in the Grafton Centre. It would be good to have some lakes or ponds. In fact I am sad we will lose Longstanton as it is; we moved here a few years ago to escape the city, and it seems the city is following us here. I want to retain, as much as possible, the peaceful rural atmosphere that brought us here initially. PLEASE.

- **Part of my land has been flooded annually and every year gets worse.** In 2002 and 2003, the wet seasons, the ditches in Willingham did not have the capacity to cope. The water returned to Station Road Longstanton, most ending up in the parish's Gravel Pit [Field] and through Hypro pond, ending up in flooding the back of my land. The proposed concrete Guided Busway and Park and Ride, and part of Northstowe, would generate a high level of surface water that would make worse the flooding problems in Longstanton /Willingham Station Road.
- **I, as I feel many villagers would agree, feel threatened by these new developments that almost certainly will kill the village aspect we have at present.** We were not told, when we bought a property here, of the pending developments and feel very disappointed that what we feel should have been a pleasant entry towards retirement in our future years could now be a regretful move. We love the village and will stay and fight for its independence as a village. Longstanton is yet another "done deal", if 90% of the locals did not want it, the development would still go ahead. Who picked Gallaghers? Was there no competition and no alternative plans? Addenbrookes Hospital is already hard pressed; the extra 10 to 16000 homes will make the situation worse. The guided bus will make no difference to the number of private cars on the A14. We need to get something done about the number of HGVs on the A14 to start with.
- **A proper hospital is needed at Northstowe.** Addenbrookes and Hinchinbrooke have a large enough highly populated catchment area already, so if a new hospital needs to be built somewhere, why not here?
- **I moved to Longstanton because it's a beautiful little hamlet-type village.** It doesn't attract anyone so stays quiet - this will not be the case when Northstowe arrives - so we will be off! It's a shame, but inevitable. To be honest, we will be leaving soon before the house prices and building work make it an unpopular place to live. Sorry!

All 101 written comments made by respondents are available on the CD, see page 33, or in printed form obtainable from Françoise Close ( details, price £1).

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**Gallagher Estates**  
**Hughes-Parry Veterinary Clinic Ltd**  
**HYPRO Wicor Industries**  
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**Longstanton Life**  
**Mowlem, Rattee & Kett, Digital Park**  
**N Watts, Painting, Decorating and Tiling**  
**Peter Stroude**  
**Persimmon Homes (East Midlands) Ltd**  
**Root Solutions**  
**Striplands Farm Bed & Breakfast**  
**Toad Acres Park Home Estate**  
**The Village Store and Post Office**  
**Yellow Ladder Services, Painting and Decorating, Roofing/Tiling**

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The following have served on the Parish Plan Committee:

***Sylvia Hicks, Françoise Close, Willie Felger, Peter Summerfield, Erene Kides, Tony Cowley, Louise Gamon, Sylvia Bull, Carol Collis, Sharon Holland, Bill Johnston, Nancy Johnston***

**Disclaimer:** While every effort has been made to ensure that the facts presented within this Report Summary are correct at the time of publication, January 2006, the Longstanton Parish Plan Committee can not be held responsible for any error or subsequent information that becomes out of date. For example, in the case of opening times that have been quoted, these should be regarded as a guide only and in the future should be checked for accuracy.

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# Conservation Areas - Our link to the past

The Conservation Area Advisory Group to SCDC produced, at its meeting of the 9th March 2005, a report “to fulfil South Cambridgeshire District Council’s duty to draw up and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of these areas, as required by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the commitment made by policy EN29 in the adopted Local Plan”(1.1).

The group, after their study of both Conservation Areas centred around our Medieval churches, noted: “Mature hedges and trees are vital to the character of both areas, while the grass verges of St Michael’s give a very soft rural feel to the village streets”(3.2). Longstanton’s open fields and tree-lined footpaths “are exceptionally important to the setting of the village and warrant inclusion within the Conservation Area”(3.4). Thus “the open land between Mills lane and St Michael’s lane and to the

southeast of St Michael’s Lane is very important to the landscape setting of the village. The long views across the paddocks give a great sense of space, and the hedgerows and trees add considerable richness to the village”(8.18).

Throughout the centuries, as they are today, such “vistas across the open fields are extremely characteristic of the village and a vital part of its setting. These usually allow views of mature trees and hedgerows which emphasise the rural nature of the village”(9.8).

The Advisory Group concluded that “the challenge for the future will be to ensure that this [character of a traditional rural village] is retained in the light of the proposed new township of Northstowe which is to be sited to the north east of Longstanton (4.13)”.

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Conservation area: ancient field east of Toad’ Acres



All Saint’s church viewed from Woodside



Old School, School Lane



Conservation area: ancient Long Lane



Old pump, Mill’s Lane



East of St Michael’s Lane: paddocks and fields in conservation area