



## LDHS UPDATE

### Longstanton's Conservation Area?

Since our last update in February/March edition of the LLife a rather disturbing development has come to our attention within the area of the junction of Long Lane and St Michaels Lane. Many trees have been

cut down within this Conservation Area that South Cambs District Council defined in 2005 and yet SCDC seem to be denying all knowledge of this destruction. (See map of CA and photo of remains of the trees) Strangely, an amount of re-planting has taken place on the 'Northstowe' side of the boundary fence that no one admits to doing either!

This has come within weeks of SCDC adopting Policy SP/15 which could allow Northstowe "open uses"



Looking down the short leg of Long Lane from St Michaels Lane, showing removal of trees on the right. 9/2/2010 © HAE Stroude

on the Conservation Area; in other words it could become playing fields, allotments or cemeteries for Northstowe!

The Conservation Area between All Saints church, along Long Lane to St Michaels represents a unique three dimensional time capsule; within this area Longstanton's history can be traced - going back to Anglo-Saxon times. This is Domesday Longstanton! After the Black Death epidemic c1349, a large part of the population was wiped out by this disease, and it is probable that the land was left uncultivated and used only for grazing; to this day it bears the 'ridge and furrow' profile that date stamps it.

SCDC originally gave the area conservation status to protect it against development and they are now apparently preparing to sacrifice at least parts of it to Northstowe without any public consultation. **Longstanton & District Heritage Society was launched at a public meeting in May of 2007 to protect and promote the Heritage of Longstanton.** Our concern is that everyone should be aware of these facts. Existing SCDC conservation area policy states that development should at least not harm a conservation area. Allotments, cemeteries and level sports fields will cause harm and should be placed elsewhere. We have expressed our concerns but have received no reassurance from SCDC that our fears are unfounded.

Please let us and your Parish Councillors know your views on this very important local issue. Are we, as a village, prepared to let this happen to our heritage?

**For more information and the latest news, please see our website: [www.ldhs.org](http://www.ldhs.org)**

### Talk Update

Friday 5th March, "Drainage of the Fens" by Mike Petty. The talk was well attended and as usual Mike did not disappoint. Uncovering much of the mystery surrounding the history, he started with the locally built Roman canal, the Car Dyke, constructed to connect what was the river Cam with the Ouse. Successful drainage of the area finally came with Vermuyden and the cutting of the 40ft and 100ft drains running from Earith Lock to Denver Sluice but not before many unsuccessful schemes had been tried.

*Tony Cowley*

Chairman Longstanton & District Heritage Society

*(Longstanton Life April/May, 2010)*