

Norfolk signs historic agreement with Ukrainian region of Lviv

A cooperation agreement has been signed between Norfolk County Council and the Ukrainian region of Lviv which is designed to explore knowledge transfer, educational exchange and trade opportunities.

The historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Thursday 2 May at the Ukrainian Embassy in London by Leader of Norfolk County Council Kay Mason Billig and in Lviv via video link by Maksym Kozytskyi, Head of the Lviv Regional Military Administration. It is the first such agreement to be signed with Lviv by any part of the UK.

Cllr Mason Billig was joined at the ceremony by Liz Truss MP, as the MP for South West Norfolk, Cllr Fabian Eagle Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Cllr Chris Dawson, Rural Champion, Chris Starkie, Director of Growth and Investment, and Roberta Willner, Head of Economic Development. Also there to witness the signing of the agreement was Nataliya Klymko, Programmes Coordinator for Growth and Investment.

Both Norwich and Lviv have links to UNESCO: Norwich is a UNESCO City of Literature, and the historic part of Lviv city (300-acre historic centre) is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. In 2022, Lviv was granted Freedom of the City of Norwich in solidarity with Ukraine, and the MoU - similar to a twinning arrangement - will further celebrate and build on these links.

Norfolk and Lviv have identified several key opportunities for collaborative working, including the TechBridge programme, a strategic partnership between the UK Government, Ukraine Ministry of Digital Transformation and Ukraine Ministry of Foreign Affairs to forge connections between our tech ecosystems.

This partnership currently runs to 2025 but may be extended, providing businesses in both locations access to expert advice and support in navigating the barriers to UK-Ukraine trade. There are also specialist investment accelerator programmes for Ukraine tech SMEs looking to expand overseas.

The skills and knowledge the local Lviv tech sector offers are recognised on the international level. For example, Lviv IT specialists developed the Skype app and special effects for films such as Harry Potter and Spider-Man. Norfolk also has a strong growing ICT/Digital sector with several individual clusters, and the MoU will encourage collaboration within the sector between our regions by participating in mutual events of interest.

This not only benefits cluster growth in a key sector for Norwich and Norfolk's digital services and would benefit Lviv through the contribution to the recovery efforts.

Other opportunities for collaboration include an incoming visit to the Theatre Royal Norwich in October by the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine, led by leading conductor, Theodore Kuchar.

New grants to help Norfolk residents open for applications

Voluntary organisations who support people struggling with the cost of living in Norfolk can now apply for two new grants from Norfolk's Household Support Fund.

The council is encouraging businesses to become fostering friendly organisations, to make it easier for their staff to become carers.

Foster Friendly employers support their staff by giving them flexibility to take their foster child to medical appointments, attend parents' evenings and sports day, or to work from home if the child is sick.

Norfolk County Council has recently become accredited as a Fostering Friendly Employer and has 30 employees who are also foster carers with Norfolk Fostering Service. Foster carers are self-employed. Many continue working at their usual place of employment at the same time as being a foster carer.

National fostering charity, the Fostering Network, offers free advice and support for businesses considering becoming a fostering friendly employer. It's completely free to do, and involves a willingness to support foster carers, and some changes to your HR policy to set out the support you will offer.

For more details see [The Fostering Network's page about Fostering Friendly.](#)

Home Composting promoting during Compost Awareness Week

To mark Compost Awareness Week (6 - 12 May), Norfolk County Council is encouraged people who are interested in home composting but haven't yet started to give it a try.

To learn how to compost at home visit www.norfolkrecycles.com/home-compost. To get your cut price compost bin, visit www.getcomposting.com, call 0800 316 445 or buy one at your local recycling centre.

County Cllr Michael Dalby

Michael.dalby.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

07306886552

New Business Board seeks members to boost Norfolk's economy

A call has gone out for experienced and influential members of the local business community to join the Norfolk Business Board.

The new board is looking for candidates who are interested in enhancing skills in the county and boosting the local economy.

The new board has been created following the integration of New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) into Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council.

The board will meet 4-6 times a year and work closely with partners such as district councils, neighbouring counties and national economic and trade bodies.

Norfolk Business Board representatives will:

- Be responsible for shaping the economic growth agenda for the county
- Use their expertise to shape and influence strategic thinking, policy, and funding decisions for the county
- Be a voice for industry to advocate across sectors, geographies, and business types. This will be at a local and, when required, national level.
- Help us to create an environment where local business can flourish and grow the economy

For an informal discussion email c.starkie@norfolk.gov.uk

To apply, send your CV to norfolkbusinessboard@norfolk.gov.uk by 5pm on 30 June.

Further information about the role is available. [Visit the Norfolk Business Board representative recruitment page.](#)

Long-term Dental Plan

The ICB's Primary Care Commissioning Committee on the 7th May 2024 approved the Long-Term Dental Plan. See below the link to the presentation to the Dental Plan.

[PowerPoint Presentation \(improvinglivesnw.org.uk\)](https://improvinglivesnw.org.uk)

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.dalby.cllr@Norfolk.gov.uk

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APPENDIX B



Stiffkey Parish Clerk <clerkstiffkey@gmail.com>

: D C report June 2024 update, very many thx

Cllr. Victoria Holliday <Victoria.Holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk>

14 June 2024 at 18:56

To: Stiffkey Parish Clerk <clerkstiffkey@gmail.com>, beestonpc <beestonpc@btinternet.com>, Tracey Bayfield <clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, "wivetonpc@gmail.com" <wivetonpc@gmail.com>, Gemma Harrison - Parish Clerk <clerk.cley@gmail.com>, Clerk Salthouse <salthouseclerk@gmail.com>, "kellingparishcouncil@gmail.com" <kellingparishcouncil@gmail.com>, Weybourne Parish Clerk <weybournepc@gmail.com>

District Cllrs report June 24 update

Blakeney Surgery

Holt Medical Practice is working with Blakeney Parish Council to find an alternate venue for medicines collection. As you know, we think this is scant mitigation for our loss of face to face appointments. We have written to the Secretary of State for Health to ask for her intervention against the closure but this is obviously delayed by the election.

Poor mobile coverage

I've met with Vodafone in the first instance to talk about mobile coverage in the hope we can reduce mobile 'not spots'. The landscape is very complicated with Virgin media/02 building the majority of masts in this area; with 3 and ee building a few of their own. Sky, Asda, and Vodafone uses 02 network and most of the rest ee...you can see the problem. Providers are required to reach 88% geographic coverage nationally of 4G by June 24, 95% by 2027. Of course, this can be achieved in more urban areas, but it certainly isn't the case here. Vodafone have done some upgrades recently in our area, but it doesn't seem to have improved service, and when this was pointed out I was told there are no further plans for this area which would improve coverage. This may possibly be because a mast costs £250k and has a maximum reach of 5k. I'm trying to get hold of the other operators but so far without success. I think we need an MP to push this further.

Dentistry

An update on dentistry: There are now 450 urgent appointments a week in Norfolk available for patients with dental pain. These are bookable via 111 and I encourage you to spread the word as I don't think it's widely known. The nearest urgent clinic for us is Fakenham. The Integrated Health Board has increased the amount paid to dentists by a small amount in the hope of retaining NHS dental practices and a Dental Bus for remote and rural areas is being co-commissioned with Cambridge, but I understand it's still a work in progress. New out of hours services are supposedly available from December. There is work expanding access for children's dentistry by March 2025.

Second homes council tax

NNDC hopes to retain 50% of the premium on second homes council tax though it is still in discussion. Originally this was to be ring fenced for affordable housing but that hasn't yet been finalised.

Free decarbonisation plans for businesses

District Cllrs report July 2024

From Cllr. Victoria Holliday <Victoria.Holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
To Stiffkey Parish Clerk <clerkstiffkey@gmail.com>, beestonpc <beestonpc@btinternet.com>, wivetonpc@gmail.com <wivetonpc@gmail.com>, Tracey Bayfield <clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Gemma Harrison - Parish Clerk <clerk.cley@gmail.com>, Clerk Salthouse <salthouseclerk@gmail.com>, kellingparishcouncil@gmail.com <kellingparishcouncil@gmail.com>, Weybourne Parish Clerk <weybournepc@gmail.com>
Date 2024-07-19 12:58

District Councillor's Report July 2024

From NNDC:

Coastal

Eastlaw is hoping to recruit for a coastline and climate change transition lawyer on a fixed term basis to support the Coastwise initiative on coastal erosion. Cromer and Mundesley Coastal Protection schemes are proceeding, with rock placement ongoing in Cromer and due to start in Mundesley.

Planning

The General Election has delayed the release of the post hearings letter from the Planning Inspector. This will cover what's next for the new Local Plan.

82% of voters in the recent Wells Neighbourhood Plan voted in favour of the plan.

The £9.6 Nutrient Neutrality Mitigation Scheme, of which NNDC is a part, is open for bids to create solutions to the problem of excess phosphorus and nitrogen in our waterways caused by new housebuilding. This is important as the new government indicates a focus on building new homes and infrastructure.

Watch out for an upcoming consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework as it contains some important protections for our protected landscapes we would not want to see lost.

Benefits

During April to July the Financial Inclusion team identified over £750k per annum of missed benefits and income for residents. They have also identified over £66k of missed Council Tax Support and missed Council Tax discounts.

We continue to administer Discretionary Housing Payments to support tenancies, prevent homelessness and allow residents to stay in their community. There is £100k

to support households.

Do get in touch with me if you think you might be eligible for any of these.

You can also contact NNDC Social Prescribers for questions about isolation, finances, benefits, legal matters, and power of attorney.

Housing

There are 2367 households on the housing list. Homelessness is still an issue. Almost half are due to loss of a private tenancy. However, the good news is there is a 25% reduction in households in temporary accommodation from last year.

NNDC are consulting on reviewing its Housing Allocations Scheme. This proposes to make changes in the way applications for social housing are assessed and prioritised, to determine who can join the housing register.

The consultation which runs till 19th August can be found at

<https://north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/consultations/housing-allocations-scheme-consultation/>

59 affordable houses should come on stream this year.

If your house needs adaptations to allow you to remain living in it there are increased Disabled Facilities Grants available so please get in touch.

Licensing

A driver knowledge test has been prepared for new drivers of Private Hire and Hackney Carriages. This replaces the current interview process and covers the Highway Code, geographical knowledge of the district etc.

Finances

The predicted out-turn for last year was a deficit of £0.9m. Future budget funding shortfalls are expected for this financial year and officers are looking at how services can be delivered more efficiently.

Estates

Work on rebuilding the Albert Street car parks begins soon and will last 12 weeks.

Sustainable growth

NNDC will be allocated its full amount of the UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Funds. So far £600k has been offered with £400k match funding from private investment.

Customer service

Waiting times for customer service increased significantly before the General Election with requests for postal votes etc and will remain high for a while.'

Blakeney Surgery

Holt Medical Practice is working with Blakeney Parish Council to find an alternate venue for medicines collection. We have chased our submission to the Secretary of State for Health requesting his intervention against the closure.

Dentistry

You can book an urgent appointment for dental pain via 111. The nearest urgent clinic for us is Fakenham. The system is working but the numbers coming from our area are small so please do spread the word. The Dental Bus for remote and rural areas is still only an idea which is disappointing.

Victoria Holliday

District Councillor

Coastal

07557054629

Fwd: PF/24/0945 - Hill House 25 Bridge Street

From Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>
To <planning@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
Date 2024-06-27 09:11

Dear Sirs,

Stiffkey Parish Council wish to make the following comments on PF/24/0945 - Hill House.

1. The introduction of multiple new dormers and other windows will lead to a significant increase in light pollution.
2. In terms of building characteristics - the new dormers have the potential to 'clutter' the roofscape and detract from the current traditional appearance of the property.

In addition, the property is surrounded by several grade II listed buildings and any development on this site should be viewed within this context. This is also in line with policy EN 4 and EN 8

3. Given the amount of works proposed and the location of the property in the conservation area, an ecological and/or an arboriculture Impact assessment report should be required.

An advisory should be placed on the conditions asking the applicants (and their builders/contractors) to:

- consider the traffic issues within Stiffkey and where possible to inform the Parish Council beforehand of any likely disruptions
- abide by NNDC policy on noise and working hours of building works.

Many thanks,

Julie Chance

Clerkk

Stiffkey Parish Council.

Fwd: Comments - PF/24/1139 - Bridge at Cabbage Creek

From Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>
To <planning@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
Date 2024-06-27 09:13

Good morning,

Stiffkey Parish Council support the application PF/24/1139 but would like to make the following comments.

- Given the line of sight to the bridge site and the well-trodden path, the introduction of mitigation measures in terms of fencing seems unnecessary. It also has the potential to cause health and safety issues (trip hazards and so on) for members of the public accessing the PROW. Both fencing and increased messaging would introduce visual impediments to the broader landscape and in the context of the Norfolk Coast National Landscape seem inappropriate.
- Given the access to Stiffkey Binks from Stiffkey Salt Marshes is not currently monitored or managed, ongoing surveys to record breeding bird abundance would seem appropriate
- The scarring and degradation of the Marshes to the east of the bridge will undoubtedly benefit from the installation of the bridge through a reduction in movement across this fragile landscape. This regeneration also will enable a reasonable degree of biodiversity and net gain as part of this undertaking. Nesting birds can be found to the east of the bridge and will also benefit from the reduction in traffic as a direct result of any new bridge.
- Concerns over increased movement towards Stiffkey Binks and the impact on both the bird population and landscape should be mitigated through a **condition** restricting the use of the car park for commercial enterprises. This will serve not only to protect the broader environment and landscape but also help limit recreational use of the area.

Many thanks.

Julie Chance

Clerk

Stiffkey Parish Council.



Stiffkey Parish Clerk <clerkstiffkey@gmail.com>

PF/24/1013 - Stiffkey - Otterslea, 5 Rivberbank, Wells Road

Stiffkey Parish Clerk <clerkstiffkey@gmail.com>

13 June 2024 at 08:35

To: planning@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Dear Sirs,

Stiffkey Members do not have any objections but would make the following comments please.

1. consider the traffic issues within Stiffkey and where possible to inform the Parish Council beforehand of any likely disruption.
2. abide by NNDC policy on noise and working hours of building works.
3. contractors are asked to cause as little disruption as possible and park down the side of the road especially during the busy season.

Many thanks.

Julie.

Julie Chance
Locum Clerk & RFO
Stiffkey Parish Council

Your privacy is important to us
To see our privacy policy and statement, please see www.stiffkeyvillage.org

Fwd: Planning Application PF/24/1018

From Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>
To <planning@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
Date 2024-07-22 06:45

Dear Sirs,

I am forwarding the comments from my Members at Stiffkey Parish Council concerning the above planning application.

Many thanks,

Julie,

Julie Chance
Clerk and RFO
Stiffkey Parish Council

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In its current form the PC are **objecting** to the application. This is based on the planning policy of the PC

1. There is extensive proposed use of glazing – including roof lights. The impact of these on dark skies as well as on the nocturnal characteristics of the village – and this location – have the potential to be significant
2. The proposed buildings would not meet the aims and objectives of policy HO 8 of the North Norfolk Core Strategy – the proposed increase in size would not seem in proportion to the original dwelling and its curtilage and its appearance in the surrounding countryside. They would also seem to all intents and purposes be new dwellings
3. Loss of street scene – both through the introduction of new replacement and more prominent buildings – but also the glazing, in particular after dark when lighting is on.
4. The impact of the proposed roof line and sky light of the log store/tea room on both the character of the site but also within the setting/vicinity of the grade II listed building to the south east (No.35).

Should the planning authority decide to give permission, we would ask the following be included:

1. A **condition** which states that use of the buildings is only permitted for purposes ancillary to the residential use of 14 Wells Road
2. A **condition** of low VLT of ≤ 0.65 in accordance with the UK Dark Skies Partnership recommendations
3. An **advisory** should be placed on the conditions asking the applicants (and their builders/contractors) to:
 - consider the traffic issues within Stiffkey and where possible to inform the Parish Council beforehand of any likely disruptions
 - abide by NNDC policy on noise and working hours of building works.

Website

Update:

The Clerk's email address is now confirmed and after testing has been in use for just over one month with no reported problems. The ability to have more email addresses remains – for example, if we wanted to have a dedicated email address for our Health Initiative.

Notification of our new website address will be made in the Newsletter and distributed to residents. Until this has taken place, both sites will be maintained.

Work is underway to move across all documentation from the old site to our new site. Focus will be on moving minutes, meeting information and policies and procedures to ensure that we remain legally compliant. The aim is to complete this as soon as possible.

The home page is active so Parish Councillors can direct queries and residents to the new site with immediate effect. For those unclear, the website address is stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk

While the use of a gov.uk domain makes it more secure, there is still a need for us as a PC to ensure that we fulfil all our obligations to IT security. With this in mind I would like to recommend the following:

- a. The PC adopt an IT policy in line with government recommendations (draft prepared under 14.6)
- b. To prevent our old domain name being purchased/hijacked/used by anyone who could then portray themselves as the PC (and potentially commit fraud) we keep the stiffkeyvillage.org domain for a minimum of 3 years. There will be a cost associated with this – currently around £12.50 a year including VAT

Blakeney Surgery:

The Prescription Ordering Service (POD) has now closed. There is no current information as to how this is impacting Holt Medical Practice patients, and this will be monitored over the coming months. The ICB did ask for measures to be put in place by November 2024.

The call for an election put on hold the application to the Secretary of State to 'call in' the ICB decision to close Blakeney Surgery. Shortly after the election, the DHSC was contacted to enquire about restarting the request and confirmation was received that this would now be looked at. Our MP was copied in on this correspondence as well as being offered a separate brief if required. Disappointingly there has been no response from our MP to date.

I would like to recommend the following:

- a. The PC continue to monitor the arrangements for ordering/collection of prescriptions that should have been put in place as part of the current plans for closure of Blakeney, and to report back in September anything of significance.
- b. The PC write to our MP – copied to our District Councillor and Blakeney Parish Council – requesting support with the application to the SoS.

Draft letter for Approval:

Dear Steffan

Further to ongoing email correspondence with the DHSC regarding a call-in request to the SoS regarding the closure of Blakeney Surgery (which you were copied in on), we would like to request that you take up this issue on behalf of all of our residents who are registered at Holt Medical Practice and who have traditionally used Blakeney Surgery.

You will be aware that health inequalities in North Norfolk are stark, and we are hopeful that you share our views and that you are willing to support us in our efforts to get the ICB decision revisited.

We are writing to you to ask you to follow up the request to the SoS and keep us informed of any progress you make. Many of our residents have relied on medical services at Blakeney and now face considerable difficulties since these are no longer available, and therefore any efforts you make would be much appreciated.

Many thanks

On behalf of Stiffkey Parish Council

Dentistry

The provision of NHS dentistry has taken an abrupt turn for the worst with Compass Clinic in Wells being placed into administration (after High Kelling suffered the same fate). Our local MP is apparently exploring the options available for the re-imburement of any fees that may have been paid for treatment not yet received. When that treatment will happen, where and by whom, is still not clear

The ICB plan continues to be longer term – and moving slowly. The idea of a Dental Bus – remains just that, an idea. The ICB are reporting that emergency appointments are available, however, patients need to phone 111 in order to access them. Anyone deemed to require an appointment is then directed to a centre where they can get treatment.

I would recommend that the PC takes a two-pronged approach:

- a. We write to our Councillors (District and County) as well as to our MP urging them to push the ICB to put something in place for local residents who rely on NHS dentistry – especially if the nearest centre for urgent treatment is not accessible via public transport.
- b. The next edition of our Newsletter has some information on Dentistry and how emergency treatment can be accessed and our Health initiative includes transportation to a dentist (both emergency and non-urgent appointments) as an integral component of the transport scheme. The cost – and difficulty – of accessing an NHS dentist could become one of the biggest barriers facing many patients as this problem persists.

Draft letter for Approval:

Dear....

No doubt you will now have heard about the loss of the Compass Dental Clinic in Wells and High Kelling. This loss has a huge impact on many of the residents in Stiffkey.

We are writing to you to ask that you urge the ICB to come up with an immediate and workable solution. We are aware that the ICB are working on longer term solutions – but we feel that this issue is too urgent to wait for long term plans and that something needs to be put in place immediately.

Many of our residents rely on an NHS dentist and further, rely on accessing their dentist using public transportation and if we are to avoid exacerbating existing health inequalities, we need your help to address this problem now.

We look forward to hearing from you with details of your plans and efforts to support our residents.

On behalf of Stiffkey Parish Council