

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:- Councillor J. Lawrence

Vice-Chairman:- Councillor M. Williams



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL **HELD ON MONDAY 27TH MAY, 2025 AT 7.29 PM** **IN STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL**

Present:-

Chairman – Cllr. M. Williams, Vice-Chairman – Cllr. J. Lawrence,
Cllr. P Harrison, Cllr. A. Hooper, Cllr. R. Husain and Cllr. J. Sugden.

District Councillor V. Holliday.

Julie Chance – Clerk.

Seven members of the public also attended the meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was **AGREED** to elect Cllr. J. Lawrence as Chairman to Stiffkey Parish Council. Cllr. Lawrence and the Clerk signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was **AGREED** to elect Cllr. M. Williams as Vice-Chairman to Stiffkey Parish Council. Cllr. Williams and the Clerk signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

The Chairman thanked David Hooper for renovating the village sign and replacing the rotten timber posts. The Members are very grateful for his hard work.

Clerk:- Julie Chance, Pine Lodge, Gimingham Road, Trimingham, Norfolk, NR11 8HP

Telephone No:- 07305048062

Email:- clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24TH MARCH, 2025**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th March 2025, having been circulated, were taken as read, **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk reported that a member of the public had asked for some wording concerning the Coastal Community Supermarket be added to the Minutes. It was **AGREED**, that as the minutes are a true record of the meeting, some wording will be included in the next newsletter and not the Minutes. Cllr. Husain will contact the Manager of the Coastal Community Supermarket to ask what wording he wished to be included.

4. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. P. Claydon.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Prejudicial declarations of interest were received from Cllrs. Harrison and Sugden in connection with any Muckledyke Permissive Path matters.

6. **GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

It was **AGREED** to adopt the General Power of Competence.

7. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None received.

8. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

8.1 **County Councillor's Reports:-** Attached.

8.2 **District Councillor's Reports:-** Attached. District Councillor Holliday gave an update on the Local Government Reorganisation and said that North Norfolk District Council will be holding public meetings on 17th and 24th June. If anyone has any questions, please let her know. The Clerk circulated a letter received from Norfolk County Council with an update on the Local Government Reorganisation. Noted.

District Councillor Holliday reported that parts of the Local Plan will be going out for consultation again shortly.

Blakeney Surgery:- It is expected the new medicines dispensing machine at Blakeney Village Hall will be operational at the end of May/June with the surgery closing in July. For the first few weeks of the Pharmabox's operation there will be a member of staff 9-12 to help with queries. There will be a secure post box to leave scripts for repeat prescriptions. There is the facility for contactless payment at the Box. You will be asked, if collecting medication from Blakeney in May, to say where you would like to collect going forward (Kelling or Melton) or if you want to go to another pharmacy or by post. If your medications are fridge items or controlled drugs you will need to make other arrangements with the surgery as they will not be stocked in the Pharmabox. There is some capacity in the home delivery service - requests will be assessed by a GP.

Cllr. Holliday has referred the Broadband issues to Openreach CEO and has a telephone appointment with Steff Aquarone MP to discuss further.

Cllr. Holliday reported that she has a meeting with Anglian Water concerning the sewage spills next week. If anyone has any questions please let her know. Cllr. Holliday will enquire when the storm tanks are due to be upgraded. Cllr. Husain expressed concern about the lack of water pressure in the village. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would contact Anglian Water to report this matter. District Councillor Holliday will provide the contact details to the Clerk.

The Vice-Chairman thanked District Councillor Holliday for all her hard work and support for the village over the past year.

8.3 Steff Aquarone MP:- Report attached.

9. PLANNING

LA/25/0191 – 2 Warborough Place, Wells Road, Stiffkey:- APPROVED.

10. POLICE

10.1 **SNAP:-** Report attached.

11. FINANCE

11.1 **Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2025:-**

Circulated. **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

It was **AGREED** to allocate the surplus of receipts over payments for the year as follows:-

Earmarked Reserves:-

Election Reserves	£250.00
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Staffing	£250.00
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General Reserves:-	£286.00
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The Clerk will amend the accounts accordingly and they will be signed at the next meeting.

11.2 **Annual Governance – Section 1 AGAR:-** Completed and **AGREED**.

The Chairman and Clerk signed the Annual Governance.

11.3 **Accounting Statement – Section 2 – AGAR:-** Circulated. **AGREED**

and signed by the Chairman. The Clerk signed the Accounting Statement on 24th April, 2025.

11.4 **Certificate of Exemption – AGAR:-** Circulated. **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

11.5 **Internal Auditor's Report:-** Circulated. Noted.

11.6 **Cash Book for the period to 30th April, 2025:-** Circulated. **AGREED**.

11.7 **Bank Statements:-** All present signed the bank statements against the Cash Book.

11.8 The following payments were **AGREED:-** £

Clerk's salary, office allowance and travel – April and May 2025.	600.08
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HMRC - Tax	129.60
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Roger Canwell – Internal Auditor	30.00
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11.9 **Annual Insurance:-** The Clerk reported that she has tried to obtain two quotations for the annual insurance. Only one quotation has been received from Zurich. The Clerk reported that the asset register insurance values have been increased. It was **AGREED** to accept the quotation received from Zurich in the sum of £760.54. This is an increase from last year of £433.54.

11.10 Budget Meeting:- It was **AGREED** to have a Zoom meeting to prepare the draft budget for agreement at the July meeting. The Clerk will circulate some possible dates.

11.11 Newsletter:- Cllr. Husain reported that a newsletter is being prepared for circulation at the end of June.

12. HEALTHY STIFFKEY WORKING GROUP

12.1 Transport Scheme:- The Clerk reported that several forms have been completed expressing interest in volunteering for this scheme by members of the public. Unfortunately, there has been no volunteer for co-ordinator. This matter will be referred back to the Working Group to decide the next step and the Clerk will contact all the members of public who have volunteered with an update. An article will be placed in the next newsletter to request a volunteer for the co-ordinator.

13. DARK SKIES POLICY

13.1 Letter:- The Clerk handed Cllr. Hooper the agreed letters for delivery.

14. HIGHWAYS

14.1 Temporary Road Closures:- Circulated. Noted.

14.2 H-Bars:- The Clerk read an email from Norfolk County Council stating that the refreshing of the H-Bars are on the current year's schedule. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to thank them and ask for a copy of the schedule in order that it can be arranged for cars to be moved for the work to commence.

14.3 Rotten Footpath Sign:- The Clerk reported that as this is a permissive footpath, Norfolk County Council will not be replacing the sign.

14.4 Drains Bridge Street:- The Clerk reported that the drains have been inspected and cleared and will be monitored. This matter will be removed from the agenda.

14.5 Missing Drains:- It was reported that there are missing drains and Cllr. Hooper will inform the Clerk of the locations. The Clerk will write to Norfolk County Council accordingly.

15. MUCKLEDYKE PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH

15.1 Cllr. Lawrence circulated two quotations for work on the permissive footpath. Cllr. Hooper reported that she and Cllr. Husain had inspected the footpath and feel it needs immediate work on three posts and the handrail. It was **AGREED** that £250 would be allocated from reserves to purchase materials and the work to replace three posts and install a kick plate will be carried out by volunteers. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would obtain a license in order to fundraise to cover any necessary work on the steps. The target is £1,000 and the license will be in the name of Cllr. Lawrence. An article will be placed on the newsletter asking for donations and pointing out that if the funding is not raised the permissive footpath may have to be closed to the public.

16. ASSET MANAGEMENT – WORK REQUIRED

16.1 The Clerk circulated a schedule of work required. The village sign has been completed. The cleaning and staining of the benches will be carried out by Cllrs. Lawrence, Sugden and Williams. The replacement of the notice board and new padlocks for the SAM 2 sign will be included in the next financial years budget. The vegetation has been removed from the phone box by Cllr. Hooper.

17. SEWAGE SPILLS

17.1 The Clerk circulated Anglian Water's response to the Parish Council's concerns. Cllr. Hooper said the response was vague. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to Anglian Water and ask for the number of spillages and to request regular updates. Cllr. Hooper will forward the wording to the Clerk.

18. NATIONAL TRUST CAR PARK/HIDE

18.1 Cllr. Hooper reported that the issue with the vegetation being cut back has resolved itself. This was carried out by an individual and the area has now been tidied up and a new hide has been installed.

19. ALLOTMENTS

19.1 Cllr. Hooper reported that a request has been received from the allotment holders to install a gate at their own expense. The gate will be able to be removed if required. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write and let the allotment holders know that their request has been granted.

20. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Responses attached.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy:- It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would respond to this consultation with the wording attached.

21. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS

21.1 Norfolk ALC – AGM:- Report attached.

21.2 Community First Responders:- Report attached.

21.3 ICB/Health – Blakeney Surgery and Dental:- Report attached.

22. NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL WEBSITE

22.1 Cllr. Hooper reported that the information on the North Norfolk District Council's website is still not correct for Stiffkey Parish Council. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would ask District Councillor Holliday if she could ask them to change the details as soon as possible.

23. LONE WORKER CONTACT

23.1 It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Hooper will continue to be the contact for the Clerk.

24. TRAINING

24.1 It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would carry out a 15 minute training session before the September meeting. The training will cover Register of Interests, Declaration of Interests and Precuniary Declarations of Interests.

25. NATIONAL TRUST BIRD MANAGEMENT PLAN

25.1 It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to the National Trust to ask what progress has been made following our comments to the Plan. The Clerk will also offer the Parish Council's assistance if needed.

26. CORRESPONDENCE

26.1 Norfolk ALC – Various:- Circulated. Noted.

26.2 Blakeney Harbour Coastal Restoration Feasibility Project:-
Circulated. Noted.

26.3 Save Benjamin Court:- Circulated. Noted.

26.4 National Trust – Meet the new General Manager:- Circulated.
Noted.

26.5 NNDC – Street Trading:- Circulated. Noted.

26.6 Environment Agency:- Circulated. Noted.

26.7 NNDC – Public Consultation – Space Protection Orders:-
Circulated. Noted.

26.8 NNDC – Planning Training:- Circulated. Cllr. Hooper has booked two sessions.

27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 28th July, 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Stiffkey Village Hall.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

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Chairman

.....
Date

NNDC Public Consultation on dog restrictions on non-coastal public areas

North Norfolk District Council is currently carrying out a public consultation about our [dog control orders](#), which are currently in place across our non-coastal public areas. The Council is legally required to review our dog orders every three years. In 2022, the orders were reintroduced to restrict dogs from being present or to be on leads within certain public areas.

The orders below expire on **11 June 2025**. The Council is considering extending them for a further three years. Under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014), the Council must carry out a public consultation and consider the views of the public and other associated bodies before implementing its decision.

The consultation is open from **Wednesday 30 April 2025** and closes on **Tuesday 13 May 2025 at 11.59pm**. Any comments after this time will not be considered. You may respond to the consultation as an individual, public body, or organisation.

The consultation webpage with the link to the consultation webform is live on the website here: [Home | PSPOs on dog restrictions for non-coastal public areas](#). The webpage has also been added to the consultation page: [Home | Council consultations](#)

Devolution Consultation

The County Council anticipates to hopefully receive feedback from the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation consultation within this month. I will keep you updated as and when this is received.

Local Government Reorganisation feedback

On 23rd April the County Council launched an engagement process to seek views to help shape the future of local government in the county. All Norfolk residents are being encouraged to respond to a series of questions with replies being used to help draw up plans for a future council structure. The feedback form is available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/lgrfeedback and people can answer as many or as few questions as they wish to.

This is an opportunity to build on the best features of our current councils and create something that delivers efficient and effective services, with strong community links, which meets residents' needs.

The County Council wants to hear from people and organisations in Norfolk on what's good at the moment, what could be improved and what they would like to see for their local area, before the county council draws up detailed proposals.

The feedback form is available until **Tuesday 20 May**. Views expressed will help shape the county council's proposals, with further engagement planned when a preferred option is identified.

Please share the link to the feedback form within your local communities, Parish Councils, or local organisations so that we can get as wide a range of views across the county as possible - www.norfolk.gov.uk/lgrfeedback

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Public Consultation

Norfolk's Local Nature Strategy (LNRS) is a plan for restoring wildlife across the county.
The Consultation close on 11th June 2025.

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.dalby.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

07306886552

Council Delivers Balanced Budget and calls for cost-saving local government reorganisation

Norfolk County Council has approved a balanced budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year, despite facing considerable financial challenges.

Key Details from the Norfolk County Council Budget:

- **Gross Budget:** The council has a gross expenditure budget of £2.2 billion (£1.7 billion excluding schools). This includes:
 - £700 million for Adult Social Care
 - £367 million for Children's Services (non-schools)
 - £283 million for Infrastructure
 - £44 million for Communities and Environment
 - £46 million for Fire Services

Net Budget: The net budget for 2025/26 is £572 million. This represents the amount raised through Council Tax to fund the services provided by the council.

- **Budget Growth:** The 2025/26 budget includes an increase of £121 million, which covers:
 - £31 million for inflationary pressures
 - £35 million for legislative pressures (including the increase in the National Living Wage and higher Employers National Insurance contributions)
 - £15 million for demand and demographic pressures
 - Over £25 million to cover recurrent overspends from Adult and Children's Services in 2024/25.
- **Funding and Savings:** While costs have risen by £121 million, funding has only increased by £32 million. The Government has eliminated the Rural Services Delivery Grant and reallocated funds from rural to metropolitan areas. To balance the budget, savings of £45 million will be implemented.
- **Council Tax:** For 2025/26, Council Tax will increase by 4.99%, which includes a 3% rise for general Council Tax and a 2% increase for the Adult Social Care precept. A Band D household will pay £1,755.63 per year, or around £34 per week, for County Council services in 2025/26.

Norfolk announced as priority area for new powers and funding

Norfolk is set to gain new powers and funding following a significant Government announcement on 5th February 2025. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner revealed that Norfolk would be a priority area for devolution and local government reform. As part of this, the Government is seeking to create a devolution deal for Norfolk and Suffolk, which would include the introduction of an elected mayor.

In addition, there are plans to reshape local government in Norfolk. The Government intends to replace the current two-tier structure, where services are shared between county and district councils, with unitary authorities. This would centralize decision-making and service delivery into a single authority, streamlining local government processes and potentially increasing efficiency and saving taxpayers money.

These changes will empower local areas with more control over their services and funding. For further details on the progress of devolution and the impact of these reforms, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution, where you can also find answers to frequently asked questions from the Local Government Association. To watch an informative video [go to our video explaining devolution and local government reform](#).

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.

Norfolk County Council opposes National Grid pylon scheme

Councillors in Norfolk have objected to a National Grid proposal to construct an electricity transmission line across the county.

National Grid has launched a statutory consultation on plans for an 114 mile overhead power line between Norwich in Norfolk, Bramford in Suffolk and Tilbury in Essex.

In non-statutory consultations, Norfolk County Council has urged National Grid to reconsider the scheme, but the project will be determined by the secretary of state for energy security and net zero as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

Norfolk County Council's planning and highways delegations committee have agreed to object to the proposal, arguing that alternative options, including an offshore or underground scheme, had not been adequately considered.

At a recent full council meeting, councillors backed a motion expressing concerns over the proposals.

That motion called for Kay Mason Billig, leader of the Conservative-controlled council to write to National Grid with several requests, including further consideration of an offshore alternative and of putting more of the power line underground.

Norfolk set to receive highest highways maintenance allocation in the region

Norfolk is set to receive more than £56 million for highways maintenance this year.

Funding for every local authority across England today can be used throughout 2025/6 on the roads are in most need of repair, and to deliver immediate fixes for communities across Norfolk.

This comes just a few weeks after Norfolk took the top spot for the second year in a row in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) survey on roads and transport. People from across the county gave Norfolk the highest (above average) score in satisfaction with the condition of the highways.

More than 5,300 potholes have been fixed across Norfolk since April this year and of those 99% were repaired by our contractors within the agreed response times. If you see a pothole - don't assume someone else has reported it. Let us know by completing our online form: www.norfolk.gov.uk/potholes

Norfolk's highways set for major investment in the year ahead

This month Norfolk County Council Cabinet has reviewed a series of investments and improvements to the county's highways infrastructure.

Documents reveal how 97 parishes, from Antingham to Worstead, will benefit from projects funded through the Council's Parish Partnership scheme. The 2025/26 programme is designed to deliver what local communities have requested, including trods, village gateways, bus shelters, and vehicle-activated signs.

The programme is jointly funded by Norfolk County Council and contributions from Town and Parish Councils. This year, Norfolk County Council plans to contribute £425,476, enabling a total investment of £848,702 for local projects.

The Cabinet has also reviewed the highways capital programme, which highlights successes from the previous year and outlines how highways maintenance funding will be allocated for the coming 12 months. This includes an additional £15 million from the Department for Transport (DfT).

With this extra funding, an additional 100 miles of roads in Norfolk will be resurfaced this year, supporting the Council's proactive approach to highway maintenance that helps prevent potholes. The funding will also provide additional resources for local repairs and patching across the county.

Herring Bridge receives further national awards

The new Herring Bridge in Great Yarmouth, which opened in February, received further national recognition at a Highway Awards ceremony in London last night.

Norfolk County Council's nationally significant infrastructure project won the Major Project of Year award and was also later announced as winner for the Highways Special Merit award across all shortlisted finalists.

This follows the bridge already receiving Major Project of the Year at the New Civil Engineer awards early this summer.

The Highway Awards were held on Tuesday 24th September at Park Plaza, Westminster Bridge in London, with shortlisted entries decided by an expert panel of twelve judges.

Norfolk's entry was a joint submission with consultants WSP who worked with the council and partners to take the project, constructed by BAM Farrans joint venture, from its inception through to delivery.

Norfolk County Council committed over £1m to keep people warm last winter

Proposals to support some of Norfolk's most vulnerable people this winter have been set out today.

Norfolk County Council is looking to use £1.15m of the £6.7m allocated to the county through the Household Support Fund to keep people warm and help them make ends meet.

The county council will use £0.75m to partner with local organisations, including Age UK and Citizens Advice Bureau, to reach some of those most affected by the changes to the Winter Fuel Payments. They will also put £400k into the 'warm spaces' scheme which provides vital respite in community spaces across the county.

The proposals also include £3.6m to continue providing cost-of-living vouchers for families eligible for means tested free school meals. This is in addition to:

- £1.00m to Norfolk Assistance Scheme. Delivered by the Norfolk County Council, the scheme includes direct award of assistance, the provision of household items and emergency help, alongside a range of support and guidance
- £0.70m to local councils across Norfolk to provide proactive and crisis support
- £0.25m to Adult Learning to continue free access to a range of courses to help with cooking at home, budgeting, and digital skills.

New strategy puts Norfolk at the forefront of the UK economy

Ambitious plans for Norfolk's economy have been unveiled in a new strategy to be presented to the county council's cabinet in November.

The strategy seeks to build on Norfolk's influence in key sectors, including clean energy, agri-tech and cutting-edge research.

Norfolk's Economic Strategy, also known as a Local Growth Plan, sets out an overview of the local economy and key priority areas for economic growth.

Norfolk is already at the forefront of some of the UK's most strategically important sectors.

Norfolk is a global leader for offshore wind with £39bn of clean energy investment forecasted over the next 20 years. In Great Yarmouth, the new Operations and Maintenance Campus is expected to create 650 new jobs and new commercial space for the offshore renewable energy sector. This £24.8m partnership project is a collaboration with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, with enabling works well underway.

Work is also underway to examine how to decarbonise the gas supply through the development of a 'Bacton Energy Hub', reusing existing North Sea assets for carbon storage, and blue/green hydrogen production.

The local Agri-Food and Agri-Tech economy puts Norfolk at the epicentre of addressing challenges around food security and climate change. Norwich Research Park is a world-leading research base at the forefront of global food and health research. It is Europe's largest single site hub of research, training, education, and enterprise in food and health.

Norfolk is already well known for a visitor economy which accounts for nearly 20% of all employment. The county was recently successful in bidding to become a Local Visitor Economy Partnership, alongside Visit East of England and Suffolk County Council. This put them on an even footing with the likes of Cornwall, the Peak District, and the Cotswolds who have the same level of Visit England accreditation.

Major infrastructure projects continue to transform how residents and businesses get around. The completion of the Herring Bridge and the start of construction on the long-awaited Long Stratton Bypass will bring a major boost for the local economy. Norfolk has also seen year-on-year growth in bus passenger numbers and the introduction of a major

New Anglia Growth Hub acts as the 'front door' for local businesses looking for support. Over the past 10 years, the Growth Hub has supported over 14,000 businesses with free, impartial support and advice.

Norfolk County Council supports Norfolk's Family Farms

Conservative-led Norfolk County Council is taking proactive steps to support the county's hard-working family farms in response to recent budget announcements from the Labour Government. Recognizing the essential role that farming plays in the local economy, the Council is submitting and debating a motion aimed at ensuring that Norfolk's farmers are well-supported as they navigate the challenges brought on by these new policies.

The motion reflects the Council's strong commitment to championing local businesses, with a particular focus on protecting the livelihoods of those who sustain Norfolk's agricultural heritage. Norfolk's family farms are the backbone of rural communities, and the Conservative-led Council is dedicated to ensuring that their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed.

Understanding the issues that local farmers face, ranging from financial pressures to complex regulatory changes, the motion highlights the importance of offering practical support.

Norfolk County Council is committed to creating a future where local farmers can thrive, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous agricultural sector for generations to come.

Norfolk street lighting goes green

Norfolk is leading the way in energy efficiency with the successful completion of its street lighting upgrade project, finishing almost a year ahead of schedule. This major initiative will cut CO2 emissions by over 200 tonnes annually, helping the county make significant strides toward a greener, more sustainable future.

The upgrade, carried out by Amey on behalf of Norfolk County Council, involved replacing 16,800 traditional High-Intensity Discharge (HID) lights with 15,531 state-of-the-art LED lanterns. This transition, which began in August 2023, will ensure that, starting in November 2024, 100% of Norfolk County Council's street lighting will use low-energy LEDs.

The final phase of this project will save approximately 1,099,032 kWh of energy each year, translating to an estimated £380,000 in savings based on current electricity prices.

Since the first LED streetlights were installed in 2008, the county has saved around 71 million kWh of energy, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by over 22,200 tonnes, equivalent to the carbon savings of 6.7 million litres of diesel. This project marks another

significant achievement in Norfolk's ongoing commitment to reducing its environmental impact and promoting energy sustainability.

Discover the Best of Norfolk: Explore 1,500 Miles of Scenic Trails for Walking, Cycling, and Horse-Riding

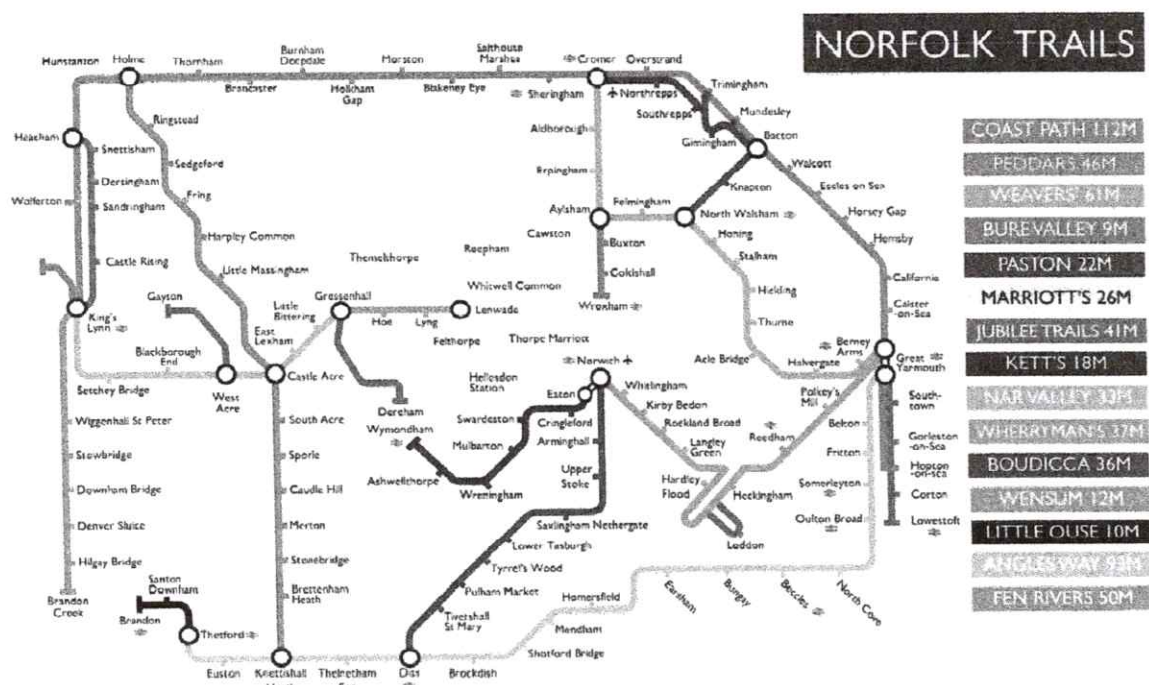
Norfolk offers over 1,500 miles of beautiful walking, cycling, and horse-riding routes, each showcasing the county's unique nature and rich cultural heritage. Whether you're exploring tranquil river valleys, historic landscapes, or scenic coastal paths, Norfolk's trails offer something for every adventurer.

Highlights include the **Angles Way**, a 93-mile walking route through woodlands and heathland, and the **Boudicca Way**, a 36-mile journey through ancient Roman and Iceni heritage sites. For those seeking to explore the Broads, the **Bure Valley Path** offers a 9-mile route along a heritage railway. History buffs will enjoy the **Kett's Country Trail**, which follows the story of Kett's Rebellion, while the **Peddars Way** takes you along an ancient Roman road.

Other stunning routes include the **Norfolk Coast Path** (a 112-mile National Trail), the **Marriott's Way** (26 miles of scenic walking, cycling, and horse-riding), and the **Wherryman's Way**, a 40-mile trek through the beautiful Broads National Park.

Whether you're interested in history, nature, or simply exploring the countryside, Norfolk's extensive network of trails provides the perfect way to experience this beautiful region.

For more information please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/42852/Norfolk-Trails



Working Well Norfolk helping people with long-term health issues to keep working

A scheme to support people in Norfolk with long-term health issues get back into employment or continue in their jobs has already helped more than 1,100 participants.

The Working Well Norfolk programme, launched in October 2023, supports individuals with long-term health issues to return to or stay in work. It has already helped over 1,100 participants, with 200 moving into work and 150 staying employed despite health challenges. The programme has received 1,600 referrals and will continue for another 18 months, with additional funding to help 730 more people, totalling 1,830 participants by September 2026. The £5.2m project is managed by Norfolk County Council and delivered by Seetec Pluss and Standguide Ltd. For more info or to refer, visit [Working Well Norfolk - Seetec Pluss](#) or call 01603 561054.

May District Cllr's report

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

To Stiffkey Parish Clerk <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, beestonpc@btinternet.com <beestonpc@btinternet.com>, wivetonpc <wivetonpc@gmail.com>, Tracey Bayfield <clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Parish clerk <clerk@cleyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Clerk Salthouse <salthouseclerk@gmail.com>, Kelling Parish Council <clerk@kellingparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Clerk Weybourne Parish Council <weybournepc@gmail.com>

Date 2025-05-15 18:47

DC Report May 2025

Feedback requested on Holt Country Park and Pretty Corner

NNDC would like to know your views on local NNDC woodland such as Holt Country Park and Pretty Corner Woods. There's a survey on the NNDC website <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/news/2025/may/let-us-know-your-thoughts-about-our-woodland-sites/>

Local government reform

The government has responded to Norfolk District Council's joint proposal to reorganise local government in Norfolk. This is for three unitary councils (ie merged county and district) centred around Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Kings Lynn. NNDC will be holding a further round of community briefing sessions to hear the views of the community. The advantages of three unitaries is that the local voice is better heard; however there will be less savings realised. Meanwhile, Norfolk County Council is promoting a single unitary for Norfolk, which they feel is better value for money and preserves the statutory functions of social services, children's care etc. There will be further briefings to Town & Parish Councils June 17th and 24th.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy public consultation

Norfolk County Council is consulting on the Norfolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This outlines the priority species and habitats for Norfolk and the measures that could be taken to restore and enhance what we already have to create new spaces. The consultation runs till June 11th and can be found on norfolk.gov.uk (search for nature strategy consultation).

Blakeney Surgery

It's expected the new medicines dispensing machine at Blakeney Village Hall will be operational end of May/June with the surgery closing in July. For the first few weeks of the Pharmabox's operation there will be a member of staff 9-12 to help with queries. There will be a secure postbox to leave scripts for repeat prescriptions. There is the facility for contactless payment at the Box. You will be asked if collecting meds from Blakeney in May to say where you would like to collect going forward (Kelling or Melton) or if you want to go to another pharmacy or by post. If your medications are fridge items or controlled drugs you will need to make other arrangements with the surgery as they will not be stocked in the Pharmabox. There is some capacity in the home delivery service - requests will be assessed by a GP.

Victoria Holliday

District Councillor

Coastal

07557054629



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North Norfolk District Council

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April 2025 District Cllr report

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Date: 2025-04-15 13:07

DC report April

'From NNDC

Food waste collection

A separate household food waste collection service will start April 2026 with Serco as the contractor. Full Council is being asked to approve a budget of £2m, funded by government to the extent of £1.5m, to purchase specially designed vehicles, caddies etc to be able to start implementing this. The food waste will be treated anaerobically to capture methane for energy production plus there will be less waste going into land fill. Just so you see the scale of the problem, an average household produces approx 227k of food waste per annum.

Capital allocation to REPE grant funding

NNDC has been awarded over £400k of capital funding from the Rural England Prosperity Fund. This is in addition to the previous £1.5m already allocated to business and community groups. Full council is being asked to approve the addition of this capital to the capital programme for 25-26 so it can be defrayed this financial year. The money will be delivered towards economic growth and breaking down barriers to opportunity.

Permanent pavement licensing policy

It is proposed that Full Council approves NNDC's new pavement licensing policy. The permanent pavement licensing regime came in as part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill in 2024. Pavement licences, which last two years, allow businesses selling food and drink to put tables, chairs etc on the highway (ie pavements or pedestrian only zones) during trading hours to increase their trade. Licensees must not obstruct the highway and seating must be smoke free. The policy will allow businesses to obtain licences more easily. There will be a two week public consultation process on each application, during which a notice will go up on the premises.

Mobile not spots

Relevant Cllrs and officers have been asked to review options to improve mobile phone signal not spots and the reasons mast application fail. Please contact me if you have mobile or mast issues.

Consultation on Taxi and Private Hire Policy

This is open till 13th May. Search NNDC website for taxi consultation.

Apprenticeship Employer Network meeting

Join an apprenticeship employer network meeting hosted by Apprenticeship Norfolk, to learn how to grow your own talent. This will be held on Weds 14th May at NNDC Council Offices, Cromer. Contact lisa.peters@norfolk.gov.uk for more details.

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<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk>

With the Easter break now firmly behind us, it was great to be able to get out and about in North Norfolk to meet with constituents and find out how I can help them with the issues that matter to them most. Last week, my team and I closed our 5000th case – a fantastic milestone that reminds us how important it is to be aware of the issues affecting our unique rural communities and to offer them support to make their lives easier.

Below are just some of the issues and campaigns that I am focused on – as always, if there are any pressing issues that you are aware of in your communities, please do get in touch and make me aware of them so that my team and I can offer our support.

Fighting for better rural transport

There is only one train line here in North Norfolk, but it's an important one. It connects our villages, communities and our towns not just to Norwich, but to the rest of the country. Not every train stops at every rural station – and I have urged Greater Anglia to reconsider their train schedules to include smaller stops where getting people to work, to school and to their appointments on time is crucial.

Support for my petition to improve rural bus services is going strong - I have met with Sanders Coaches to call for a more joined-up bus schedule that will allow people to get where they need to go. While I fight for a better-connected Norfolk, I am also happy to report some good news for our learner drivers who rely on vehicles to get around. The Secretary of State has promised to prioritise clearing the backlog of driving tests and I'll be making sure that North Norfolk gets its fair share.

Supporting our farmers

British farming is among the best in the world - and Norfolk's is among the best in the country. I have regularly met with farmers to discuss their ongoing challenges – including their concerns about the quality of imported food, the impact of climate change on their farms, the impact of hefty tariffs, bad trade deals and not to mention the devastating family farm tax. That's why I'm fighting their corner, amplifying their voice and backing British farming. I also recently met with young farmers who are concerned about the impact that the family farm tax will have on their futures. I am continuing to push the Government to give our farmers a fair deal before it's too late.

Committed to giving our children the education they deserve

I did not get into politics to oversee a managed decline in services, and I am shocked at how often I hear about a school that is set to close in a community that desperately needs access to it. I have been outspoken on the delay in building the new school in Holt and have raised the matter with the Secretary of State for Education. I will keep putting pressure on the Council to complete the school with urgency and I won't stop until I see the first pupils walk through the gates. I also met with parents whose children attend East Ruston nursery after the Trust decided to consult on the facility closing

down. I won't accept that our children don't deserve the best education possible, and that what I'll keep pushing for.

Demanding better SEND provision for our children

Every day, my team and I offer our support to families who are navigating Norfolk's broken SEND system and despite doing everything right, they're finding themselves endlessly butting heads with a broken system that seems to work against them. I have nothing but admiration for them and I am campaigning to build (and fund) a joined-up family-focused SEND system that works with compassion, urgency, and common sense and I will keep fighting for a joined-up system that puts our children first.

Securing early legal support for our residents

North Norfolk is a legal aid desert, and many residents have little access to family, criminal and housing legal assistance. This needs to change – and fast. Despite the great efforts of organisations like the Norfolk Community Law Service there are still barriers that prevent people from accessing the help that they desperately need. I raised this vital topic in Parliament and look forward to working with the Government to ensure North Norfolk residents get the early legal support and advice that makes the biggest difference.

Securing Support for our Coastal Communities

I recently had the great honour of securing this parliament's first debate on coastal communities and it gave me the opportunity to bring the challenges that we face daily here in North Norfolk to the attention of the Government, and to ask them for their support in the form of appointing a Coastal Minister.

Despite the incredible contribution that coastal communities like ours make to our country economically, culturally and environmentally, the system is not working for us. Our health and economic outcomes are poorer than those of our inland neighbours, our environment is battling the challenges of climate change, coastal erosion and the sewage dumping scandal and our communities are damaged by second homes that sit empty for six months of the year. This isn't about stopping second home ownership, instead, it is about finding ways to ensure that affected communities get something back to offset the impact. These are just some of the issues that land in my inbox daily that I am tackling to better the lives of people in North Norfolk.

Better banking that serves rural communities

Many residents have written to me about the new banking hub that I secured in Holt which has helped the community to access banking services where they live and work. I'm pleased to say that I have secured a second banking hub, this time in North Walsham, that will go a long way towards replacing services that will be lost when Santander closes their branch there, which is also the only bank left in the town. I will keep campaigning for more banking hubs across North Norfolk so that more people can

access the services they need and talk to a representative from their own bank in person when they need to.

Easing the healthcare burden with new appointments

With 21,500 new NHS dentist appointments secured for North Norfolk through my campaign for better dental care – it is clear that the Government is listening to our urgent call for better healthcare provision. I am calling for more services at Cromer Hospital to ensure that those who need urgent and specialist treatment can access first class healthcare without the additional struggle of travelling for hours to get there.

Standing with communities on the issues that really matter to them

Finally, I am delighted to say that the phone box in Sharrington has been given a reprieve, and BT have said that – due to overwhelming community support for it – they are no longer going to remove it. In fact, they have just been around to give it a spruce up – replacing the receiver, giving it a spring clean and readying it for a brand new coat of red currant paint. It just goes to show you what communities can achieve when we rally together to fight for the things we believe in.

As always, please get in touch if there is anything that my team and I can support you with, we're always here to help.

Steff Aquarone.