

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2025

Community Speedwatch

The Parish Council congratulates the Stiffkey Community Speedwatch team for finally persuading Highways and Norfolk Constabulary to allow them to operate in the 20mph zone in the centre of the village. This has always been where speeding is most prolific. Drivers beware!

SNAP meeting

The process for setting Police Priorities has changed. Issues and concerns are now collated by Norfolk Constabulary and fed into a District Wide Priority Setting. Current priorities for North Norfolk are retail theft and road safety.

NHS Dentist in Wells

Updated from our previous newsletter, Damira Dental Studios is now allowing NHS patients to join the waiting list at its practice at Wells Community Hospital. To do this call 01328 633073 or go to damiradental.co.uk. If you have a dental emergency call 111 and they should help you to find the nearest NHS dentist for emergency treatment.

Asset Management

The village sign on the Knoll is in the process of being restored. The old post, which was rotten at the base and around the sign, has been removed and a new oak post will be erected in its place. As part of its annual asset maintenance check, the Parish Council is assessing the works required to ensure the Permissive Path that runs from Big Hill to The Red Lion is properly maintained.

PositiviTea Events

NNDC runs monthly community get-togethers for adults who may require support or advice with mental health issues, loneliness, access to benefits and much more. The events are free to all and are not means tested. Each month focuses on a different theme and the Community Connectors who run the events bring together support organisations to help and advise attendees. The next event will be held on 13 March 2025 at the Salvation Army, Hall Road, North Walsham. The theme will be Opportunities for Older Adults. For further information about the PositiviTea events contact NNDC on 01263 513 811 or email communityconnectors@north-norfolk.gov.uk. You can also hear more about the Community Connectors on poppylandradio.co.uk.

CPR Training

The first CPR Training session exclusively for the residents of Stiffkey took place on 28 November 2024 with 19 residents attending. There were five First Responders in attendance who gave up their time free of charge for the evening. They gave one-to-one training to attendees using CPR Manikins and dummy defibrillators. In addition, a very detailed presentation was delivered by the First Responders. Feedback from the training session was very positive so the Parish Council will help to arrange another training session in 2025 for residents who were unable to participate in November. Learning CPR techniques can save a life and, with the village defibrillator installed in the telephone box, it is important that as many residents as possible learn how and when to deploy a defibrillator correctly.



As well as giving up their time to train Stiffkey residents in CPR techniques, in the last year our local First Responder team were on duty for 798 hours over 166 shifts responding to 999 calls.

First Responders are volunteers for the East of England Ambulance Service and as such they receive no monies for the time they spend on call, nor do they receive any monies for the miles they travel to assist the public. If you feel they perform a valuable service and would like to donate, please contact the Clerk for the different ways you can donate.



Health Access Transport Scheme

As mentioned in our previous newsletters, we are working towards setting up a transport service at little or no cost to users. It will be for anyone who is unable to collect their own prescriptions or who may need transport to medical appointments, like the dentist, the GP surgery, or the hospital. For example, you may be unable to drive temporarily due to a minor injury or on medical advice prior to a procedure. Whatever the reason, the transport scheme will be designed to help.

We are very lucky to have been able to secure the help of Councillor Tim Adams, Leader of NNDC and Chair of Cromer Cares (a similar scheme that operates in Cromer and surrounding villages) to help guide the Parish Council in setting up the scheme. Since Cromer Cares was founded in 2020 it has helped over 3000 residents.

Councillor Adams will be attending a public meeting at the village hall on 8 April 2025 at 7.00pm to answer any questions you may have about the scheme and how it may operate. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to attend (contact details overleaf).

If you are interested in using the service, or in volunteering to be a driver, or in helping to run and manage the scheme please contact the Clerk or our website: <https://stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/health/community-transport-scheme/>

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Your Council

Clerk: Julie Chance

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Councillors:

Paul Claydon

Phil Harrison

Alex Hooper

Rocky Husain

Jamie Lawrence (Vice Chair)

Janey Sugden

Martin Williams (Chair)

Website: stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Social media:

 Stiffkey Parish Council

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Parish Council Meeting Dates

The next Parish Council meetings will be at 7pm in the Village Hall on:

24 March 2025

27 May 2025 - Annual Parish Meeting

28 July 2025

29 September 2025

24 November 2025

Please come along if you can.

The Government's Devolution Plans for Norfolk

The government's English Devolution White Paper details the biggest reforms to local government in over 50 years. The White Paper confirms that Norfolk and Suffolk are part of the Devolution Priority Programme which would see the creation of a Combined Mayoral Authority. Headed by an elected mayor (similar to Manchester, West Yorkshire, London etc), the Authority would gain the following powers, functions and budgets devolved from Whitehall:

- Transport
- Strategic infrastructure
- Strategic Planning and Housing Numbers
- Economic development and planning
- Environment and climate change
- Skills and employment support
- Health, wellbeing and public sector reform
- Public safety

In addition to the plans currently being put forward for a Combined Mayoral Authority, the reforms will see a major Local Government Reorganisation programme across Norfolk. This will include replacing the existing County Council and seven District Councils with possibly two or three Unitary Authorities.

The government has said that new Unitary Authorities should cover populations of 500,000 or more, making it unlikely that Norfolk, with fewer than a million people, would get more than two authorities. Town and Parish Councils will remain untouched.

Norfolk currently has Norfolk County Council, Breckland District Council, Broadland District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council, Norwich City Council, South Norfolk Council and West Norfolk Council.

At the moment, Norfolk County Council is responsible for services such as adult social care, children's services, libraries, museums and recycling centres. District councils control things like housing, leisure centres and parks. Any new unitary authorities would run all services.

The current Norfolk and Suffolk councils are working together to meet the government's deadlines of producing interim proposals by 21 March 2025 and a full business case by 26 September 2025 with a view that any new Combined and Unitary Authorities would be fully established by May 2028.

As a result of the Devolution Priority Programme, all council elections have been suspended until May 2026.

If you would like to comment on the devolution process, please visit <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/lggc/norfolk-and-suffolk-devolution-consultation>. The consultation period will close on 13 April 2025.

The Parish Council will update both the website and future newsletters as and when new information is received.

