

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER, JULY 2025

Health Access Transport Scheme



Following a successful public meeting in April, the Parish Council is moving forward with setting up the scheme. It will be open to everyone who needs help accessing health and medical services– from prescription collection to medical appointments. We hope to have the scheme operational by September. If you are interested in using H.A.T.S, 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/>.

Asset Management

The Parish Council has assessed the works required to ensure the Permissive Path that runs from Big Hill to The Red Lion continues to be safe to use. In the short term, three handrail posts will be replaced and a kick board will be installed to shore up the handrail itself. For the longer term, the Council is looking to organise fundraising to enable more substantive works to the steps.

Posters on Poles

It is always good to see village events being advertised on the telegraph poles throughout the village. However, we kindly ask that event organisers please remove any advertising/posters once the event is over in order to keep the village looking tidy.

Poor Mains Water Pressure

Our District Councillor is working with the Parish Council to try to address the poor mains water pressure issues experienced by so many households in the village. Please get in touch with the Clerk and let us know if you have experienced a drop in water pressure; the times of day/year this happens; and the frequency of the issue. The more people who get in touch the better. It will help us to build a water pressure 'map' of the village which we can present to Anglian Water as evidence of the seriousness of the problem so that a solution can be found.

Public Consultation

There is currently one active public consultation - The Reform of Planning Committees. The closing date is 23rd July. Views are sought on reform of local planning committees – reducing the number of planning applications considered by a committee and moving more decisions to a delegated officer. You can access the survey through the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reform-of-planning-committees-technical-consultation/reform-of-planning-committees-technical-consultation>

Village Sign on the Knoll

As many of you will know, the village sign on the Knoll has been completely restored. The sign has been cleaned and repainted and now sits proudly atop a new chestnut post. The Council would like to thank David Hooper for the huge effort undertaken to reinstate the sign and bring it back to its former glory.

Disappointingly, within a week of the sign being reinstated, someone vandalised the post. Thankfully David was able to mitigate the damage but if anyone notices anyone tampering with the sign, or writing graffiti on the post, please could they let the Council know as soon as possible either by contacting the Clerk or alerting one of your Councillors.



News You Can Use

Swap Shop

On the second Saturday of every month, Swap Shop is held in the Village Hall. This is your opportunity to get together with other members of the village. Bring something to swap - or simply drop in for a chat, a cup of tea and a slice of cake. Someone from the Parish Council is always present and our District Councillor, Victoria Holliday, tries to attend as often as possible.

National Trust Bird Watching Volunteers on Stiffkey Marsh

The National Trust is actively seeking volunteers to help them undertake their bird monitoring programme. This was initiated as part of the planning conditions for the new Stiffkey Marsh Bridge. If you are interested in taking part, or would like to know more details, please contact the Clerk or get in touch directly with Ben Smyth at the National Trust. He can be contacted via email - ben.smyth@nationaltrust.org.uk or telephone 01263 740241.

Coastal Community Supermarket

Coastal Health & Wellbeing, based in Wells at the Old Cottage Hospital on Mill Road, runs community supermarkets and pop shops in North Norfolk, as well as providing many other services such as dementia support, walking groups and much more. The aim of the shops is to help reduce food miles by using local suppliers; to help reduce food waste by selling items that would normally go to landfill; and to help the local community combat rising living costs. There are permanent shops in Wells and Holt which are open for three and two times a week respectively, and weekly pop up shops in Walsingham and Wicken Green. Everyone is welcome to use the service at any venue. All that is required is a membership fee of £3.50 and proof that you are a permanent resident of North Norfolk. Coastal Community aims to be 30-50% cheaper than major supermarkets with the biggest savings on cleaning and toiletry products. It is completely reliant on funding from donations, grants and fundraising efforts. It also works with local allotment holders who have gluts of produce that can be passed on to customers, as well as with people who have e.g. apple trees in their gardens. For further information about opening times, or to donate your produce, time, money etc please visit www.coastalhealthwellbeing.org.uk or call 01328 711996.

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Your Council

Clerk: Julie Chance

Email: clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Address: Stiffkey Parish Council, Pine Lodge, Gimingham Road, Trimingham, Norfolk NR11 8HP

Councillors:

Paul Claydon

Phil Harrison

Alex Hooper

Rocky Husain

Jamie Lawrence (Chair)

Janey Sugden

Martin Williams (Vice Chair)

Website: stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Social media:

 Stiffkey Parish Council

 [stiffkeyparishcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/stiffkeyparishcouncil)

 [stiffkeyparishcouncil](https://twitter.com/stiffkeyparishcouncil)

Parish Council Meeting Dates

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

28 July 2025

29 September 2025

24 November 2025

Please come along if you can.

Devolution Plans for Norfolk - An Update

Members of the Council attended a further update meeting in mid-June.

What you need to know about the mayor and the new Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA):

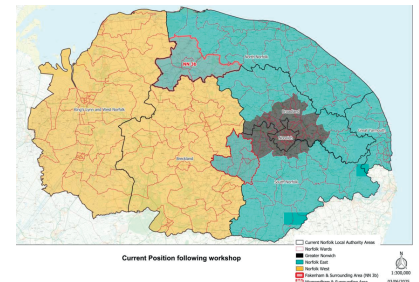
- The election for the new Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk is currently expected to take place on 7 May 2026, and whomever is elected will become the leader of the MCCA
- The MCCA will have the authority to levy its own precept to pay for its costs. This will be added to your council tax bill
- The MCCA will be responsible for providing a strategic and regional voice for the combined Norfolk and Suffolk area and will gain functions and funding from central government in the following areas:
 - Housing and Regeneration
 - Local Growth
 - Adult Skills and Employment programmes
 - Local Transport
 - Environment and Climate Change
 - Public Health

At the same time as the MCCA, a Local Government Reorganisation Programme is also taking place to replace the current District and County Councils with Unitary Authorities.

What you need to know about the establishment of Unitary Authorities:

A Unitary Authority will bring together all of the services currently undertaken by the District Council (e.g. refuse collection, housing etc) with those provided by the County Council (e.g. adult social care, highways, schools):

- The process for this is expected to be in place by May 2028
- Councils across Norfolk have been invited to submit a business case for the number of Unitary Authorities in Norfolk by 26 September 2025. The government has stipulated that a Unitary Authority should cover populations of 500,000 or more. It is unclear how this arbitrary figure was reached.
- There are three proposals for Unitary Authorities currently put forward:
 1. Norfolk County Council has proposed one Unitary Authority.
 2. South Norfolk District Council is proposing two Unitary Authorities.
 3. The other six District Councils (including NNDC) are proposing three Unitary Authorities, as shown on the map. You can find out more about this option and have your say at www.futurenorfolk.com



The Government will consider all three proposals and ultimately make the final decision if no consensus is reached.

What is the difference between each proposal and what this means for you?

Broadly speaking, the key issues are around cost and representation.

In terms of cost - the larger the Unitary Authority, technically, the cheaper this will be. The issue of representation is less clear – a larger Unitary Authority will likely mean fewer councillors (or elected representatives) and it could also lead to spending and policy dilemmas as a more generalised approach is likely to present challenges – such as urban versus rural, coastal versus inland, local versus centralised, young versus old and so on.

The business cases have yet to be shared and there are currently no clear figures from the various proposals that show costs and/or savings or how each Unitary Authority will manage area-specific dynamics and challenges.

The Parish Council will keep you updated as things progress.