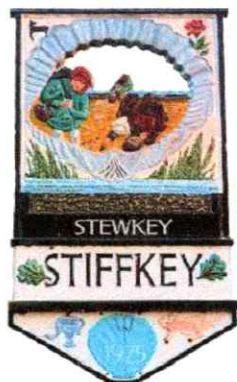


STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:- Councillor A. Hooper

Vice-Chairman:- Councillor M. Williams



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL **HELD ON MONDAY 20TH JULY, 2026 AT 7.00 PM** **IN STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL**

Present:-

Chairman – Cllr. A. Hooper, Vice-Chairman – Cllr. M. Williams,
Cllr. P. Claydon and Cllr. R. Husain.

County and District Councillor V. Holliday.

Julie Chance – Clerk.

Two members of the public also attended the meeting.

1. RESIGNATION – NOTICE OF VACANCY

The Chairman reported that Jamie Lawrence has resigned from Stiffkey Parish Council. The Members would like to thank Jamie for his hard work during his term of office. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write on behalf of the Members to thank Jamie.

The Chairman reported that the period for requesting an election has lapsed and the vacancy will be open for co-option. This matter will be dealt with on the agenda.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH MAY, 2026

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2026, having been circulated, were taken as read, **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

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

Telephone No:- 07305048062

Email:- clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. P. Harrison – Work Commitments and from Cllr. J. Sugden – Travel Delays. Accepted.

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

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr. A. Hooper in connection with Item 8.4 – Grant Applications.

4.1 **NNDC – Legislative Change for Register of Interest for all Elected**

Members:- Circulated. The Clerk reminded all present to check that their Register of Interests are up to date as NNDC will be reviewing in three months time. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to NNDC and point out that their records are not up to date concerning Stiffkey Parish Council Members and the Clerk. The Parish Council will be reviewing NNDC's records in three months to ensure they meet compliance. Cllr. Hooper will draft the letter to NNDC and the Chief Executive and Cllr. Holliday will be sent copies.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None received.

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

6.1 **County Councillor's Reports:-** Attached. County Councillor Holliday has been chasing poor broadband speeds for the villages with Norfolk County Council. There is a need for a spine cable installation from Holt to Cromer. The Openreach broadband network consists of multiple nodes across the County, typically located in BT exchanges. These nodes use high-capacity spine cables that are comprised of hundreds, or sometimes thousands of individual fibers. Cllr. Holliday has requested a meeting with the parishes to explain the situation.

Recycling centers have been accepting electrical waste since Monday 13th July. Cllr. Hooper enquired why there had been a drop in recycling since the booking system was introduced. She was told it was due to garden waste. Cllr. Holliday will look into this matter and report back to the Members.

Sanders will be offering free travel to children.

Cllr. Holliday is liaising with the head of the speed camera crew and will ask the duty beat officer if he can carry out further speed checks. Cllr. Williams reported that the Stiffkey Speed Watch Scheme is working well with nineteen letters being issued following the last session.

Cllr. Hooper requested the dates for the Social Workers at Glaven and Heritage House in order to advertise them on the website, social media and the notice board. Cllr. Holliday will forward the dates to the Clerk.

The Members and Cllr. Holliday had discussions concerning problems with parking in the village. Following lengthy discussion it was **AGREED** that no further action would be taken at this time.

Cllr. Holliday reported that Norfolk County Council still has funding for bus stop improvements and will send the details for qualification. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

Cllr. Holliday gave a brief update on the Local Government Reorganisation.

6.2 District Councillor's Report:- Attached.

7. PLANNING

7.1 PF/26/0685 – Creek House, 4 Greenway, Stiffkey:- APPROVED.

7.2 PF/25/2794 – Rose Cottage, 82a Wells Road, Stiffkey:- APPROVED.

7.3 PF/26/1235 – 70 Wells Road, Stiffkey:- Circulated. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Hooper will prepare a response and circulate to Members for consideration.

7.4 PF/25/1291 – CD/26/0009 – 14 Wells Road:- The Clerk reported that she has written again to the applicant asking that the contractors do not block the road. It was reported that this problem has been resolved. It was **AGREED** that this matter will be removed from the agenda.

7.5 North Norfolk Local Plan Review & Call for Sites:- Circulated. It was **AGREED** to nominate the garden plots as green space.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Cash Book:- The Clerk circulated the cash book made up to 30th June, 2026 which was **AGREED**.

8.2 All present signed the Bank Statements against the Bank Reconciliation for the period to 30th June, 2026.

8.3 The following payments were AGREED:-	£
Clerk's salary, office allowance, travel & stationery June & July, 2026	607.88
HMRC – Tax	129.60
T.T. Jones – Street Lighting Maintenance	43.03
Norfolk ALC - .gov.uk Domain	69.48
Norfolk ALC – Website Hosting	86.88
Stiffkey Village Hall – Room Hire	180.00

8.4 Grant Applications:-

East Anglian Air Ambulance – Requested £500. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to East Anglian Air Ambulance wishing them well with their very important work but that Stiffkey is a small parish and a request for 6% of our annual budget cannot be agreed.

Stiffkey Parochial Church Council – Requested £50:- **AGREED**.

Stiffkey Local History Group – Requested £50:- **AGREED**.

9. HEALTH ACCESS TRANSPORT SCHEME

9.1 Cllr. Williams reported that the new Trustees are having regular meetings. They are publicising the scheme and have managed to recruit two new volunteer drivers. The Clerk reported that the new Trustees will be added to the Charity Commission as soon as possible. Once the new Trustees have been added and they have a bank account the funding held by the Parish Council will be transferred to the Charity.

10. HIGHWAYS

10.1 Temporary Traffic Orders:- None received.

10.2 Drains Bridge Street:- The Clerk reported that she has contacted the Highway Engineer for an update but to date has not received a reply. The Clerk will chase accordingly and copy County Councillor Holliday into the email.

10.3 Rusty Signposts:- The Clerk reported that she has contacted the Highway Engineer for an update but to date has not received a reply. The Clerk will chase accordingly and copy County Councillor Holliday into the email.

11. **MUCKLEDYKE PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH**

11.1 The Chairman reported that a donation of £250 has been received from a local business. Cllr. Williams is liaising with Jamie Lawrence to get details of other possible donations. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Williams will continue with this project and the Members thanked him for his kind offer.

12. **REPORTS FROM MEETINGS**

12.1 Community First Responders:- The Chairman reported that the Community First Responders are receiving 1-2 call outs per shift which is an average of 2-3 per week. The quarterly reports are on the website. It was **AGREED** that this matter will be placed on the November and May agendas going forward.

12.2 SNAP:- The Chairman reported that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th August and she will be attending. This matter will be on the next agenda for a report.

12.3 Dentistry:- The Chairman reported that there is a 3-5 year waiting list and she requested Cllr. Holliday to obtain an update. This matter will be on the next agenda for an update.

12.4 Newsletter:- Cllr. Husain reported that there is not enough content to publish a newsletter at present and this matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

12.5 Greenhoe Local Energy Club:- The Chairman reported that a leaflet has been produced but they need to do an engagement plan. The Club is waiting to hear about a grant application and this matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

13. **CORRESPONDENCE**

13.1 NCC – Norfolk Local Access Forum:- Circulated. Noted. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will liaise with NNDC to enquire how we can interact and to ascertain what the relevance to Stiffkey is.

13.2 Cllr. Holliday – Fire Safety Posters:- Circulated. It was **AGREED** that these posters will be placed on the website, social media and notice board. Members are encouraged to display posters in the village if needed.

13.3 Cllr. Holliday – Broadband Speed:- This matter is dealt with under the County Councillor's Report.

13.4 Norfolk Coast National Landscape Management Plan 2025-30 – Norfolk Coast:- Circulated. Noted.

14. **MEETING DATES – 2027**

The Clerk circulated the meeting dates for 2027. **AGREED.**

15. **POLICY REVIEW**

15.1 **Communication and Social Media:-** No amendments.

15.2 **Freedom of Information:-** No amendments.

15.3 **Biodiversity Policy:-** No amendments.

15.4 **IT Policy:-** No amendments.

15.5 **Data Protection Policy:-** No amendments.

15.6 **Filming at Meetings Policy:-** No amendments.

15.7 **Press & Media Policy:-** No amendmnets.

15.8 **Co-Option Policy:-** **AGREED.**

16. **CASUAL VACANCY**

16.1 It was **AGREED** to advertise the vacancy and Cllr. Hooper will prepare the advert. The applicants will need to request a form from the Clerk or download one from the website for completion. Once all applications have been received interviews will be arranged.

17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 21st September, 2026 at 7.00 pm Stiffkey Village Hall.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55 pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

June County Councillors Report

From Norfolk County Council

'Illegal Cigarettes Seized

Following inspections carried out because of intelligence received by Norfolk Trading Standards, illicit cigarettes, illegal vapes and hand-rolling tobacco has been seized from businesses in Great Yarmouth and Norwich.

The inspections were carried out with Norfolk Constabulary as part of Norfolk Trading Standards' ongoing work to tackle the sale of illegal tobacco products and protect the public.

This is a useful reminder of the role of Trading Standards, which helps ensure businesses trade fairly and legally, investigates scams and rogue traders, and works to keep consumers safe.

Further information about Trading Standards, including advice and support for businesses and consumers, is available on the county council webpages [here](#).

Residents are urged to report concerns about the illegal sale of vapes, cigarettes or tobacco to Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service – staying safe with lithium batteries

Recent incidents in Norfolk have highlighted the risks associated with lithium batteries. This reflects a wider national increase in lithium battery fires, linked to the growing use of items such as e-bikes and e-scooters.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is working with Norfolk Trading Standards to help prevent these incidents by promoting safety advice on buying batteries and devices safely, charging them correctly, using e-bikes and e-scooters safely, and disposing of lithium-ion batteries appropriately.

Further information is available on the county council webpages [here](#).

Skills England: Annual Skills Report

Skills England, the Government's national agency for skills, has published its first [Annual Skills Report](#). It sets out current and future skills needs across ten priority sectors linked to economic growth.

The report points to growing demand in sectors including clean energy, construction and digital, and highlights the importance of colleges, universities, apprenticeships and flexible training routes in helping people gain the skills employers need.

It also calls for a stronger skills system that supports the Industrial Strategy, responds more effectively to employers' needs, including SMEs, and helps more people into good jobs.

The main challenges identified are:

- tackling skills shortages and supporting workforce upskilling and reskilling
- encouraging greater employer investment in training and apprenticeships
- responding to the rapid adoption of AI
- improving employability pathways for young people
- building more responsive, place-based skills systems that reflect local economic need

The report stresses that addressing these issues will require strong partnership working between employers, education providers, local leaders and government.

Support for care leavers

The Government is expanding a programme to help children in care establish meaningful relationships for when they reach adulthood. It aims to improve outcomes for the 80,000 children in care across England, as many face significant challenges upon leaving the system. Following a pilot of 25 local areas given funding to employ coordinators, £8.4 million of funding from the Department for Education is being made available over the next three years, to ensure all children in care and leaving care are offered this support.

Norfolk County Council already has a local offer of support that sets out the support available in Norfolk to care leavers.'

Help with living costs

The Crisis Resilience Service offers financial support in the short term and ways to improve your financial resilience. Please reach out and if you have any difficulty with an application, get in touch. The Social Workers' drop ins at Heritage House, Wells, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month, or at the Glaven Centre, Blakeney, on the first Friday and 3rd Monday, can help fill in forms. No appointment needed.

Find out more at

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41957/What-the-Crisis-and-Resilience-Service-is>

Food support can be accessed

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

Help with utility bills can be found at

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41958/Help-and-advice-with-utility-bills>

If you're on benefits you can get reduced broadband packages. I have a detailed information sheet on this so please do get in touch if you'd like to find out more.

If anyone in your household has a medical condition which means you use more water than usual, Anglian Water have a scheme (WaterSure) which caps your water bill. You do need a water meter and be on certain income related benefits.

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/services/extra-support/tariff-options/watersure/apply-for-watersure>

Dentistry

Applications are now open for the first 25 student places at the new dental school at the University of East Anglia. This first cohort are expected to start training Sept 2027. The undergraduate training program will be at a new £3million extension to the Edith Cavell Building. This is the first step in relieving the dental desert in Norfolk.

Every NHS dental practice offers urgent dental appointments - in North Norfolk this equates to approximately 170 appointments a month. These are accessed by calling

111. Please let me know if you have difficulty getting an appointment and I will raise this with the Integrated Care Board.

Children's Services

Children's services at NCC have been rated by Ofsted as outstanding across the board: overall effectiveness, the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families, the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection, the experience and progress of children in care, and the experience and progress of care leavers. There was one area which was identified as needing additional improvement: the recognition and consideration of young carers who receive statutory services.

Education

25 new places for children with autism are being provided at Alderman Peel High School in Wells to help the children integrate into mainstream education with the right specialist help in place. These should be completed by October 2026.

Summer reading challenge

The theme for this year's Summer Reading Challenge is Read to the Beat. Children age 4-11 can sign up at their local library, choose their own books, set their own goals and collect reward stickers for every goal reached. Children who complete their goals by the end of the challenge receive a certificate and a medal!

The books can be read online or can be collected from the library. Find out more here [Summer Reading Challenge 2026 - Norfolk County Council](#)

Tech skills

If you need to borrow a laptop, smartphone or tablet and learn how to use them; find out how to get free mobile data or a more affordable broadband tariff; if you're not sure you're getting the best out of your mobile phone; or are worried about online scams, do contact the Tech Skills for Life team at Norfolk County Council on 01485536420 or 01493448246. Find out more at [Tech Skills for Life - Norfolk County Council](#)

Road safety and maintenance

The most effective way to report a Highways defects is by submitting it via Norfolk County Council's official '[Report a highways problem](#)' form on the website. Alternatively, contact the Customer Service Centre by emailing highways@norfolk.gov.uk or calling 0344 800 8020. This allows the issue to be logged and acted on quickly.

If a defect is a pothole which wasn't fixed before a road was redressed, still report it via the defects portal, but highlight 'to the attention of a highways engineer' so it gets audited.

Similarly, if the problem is edge deterioration, please report it via the portal but highlight 'to the attention of highways rangers'.

There is still some money available in the Bus Stop Improvement Programme. This covers new bus stops, bus shelters and possibly trods. Contact me for more details.

Waste Recycling

The Wells Recycling Centre has shown a significant increase in usage since the booking system was introduced and there are no plans to close it.

My understanding is that recycling centres can accept large household appliances such as washing machines, tumble driers, dishwashers and cookers at recycling centres, but still not fridge freezers and small electricals including batteries and light bulbs. This is because NCC has to apply for a new recycling facility as the previous one was destroyed by fire.

Business support

The New Anglia Growth Hub provides support to grow your business, make it more sustainable and resilient. There are events and funding opportunities, find out more at <https://www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk>

Go Digital Funding Programme

This provides free digital business support to small and medium sized businesses. Parish Councils are eligible if they run a community hub/facility/village hall which creates an income and which provides a benefit to the community. Successful applicants receive free digital advice on websites, social media, digital tools to support their business, and can request a £500 grant to help implement a digital action plan. More detail on this at [Go Digital Application Form - New Anglia Growth Hub](#)

Dr Victoria Holliday
County Cllr Wells Division
victoria.holliday.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk
07557054629

County Cllr report July 2026

Electrical waste collections resume at Norfolk Recycling Centres from 13 July

Electrical waste items and batteries will again be accepted at all Norfolk recycling centres from Monday 13 July.

You can book a visit to a Norfolk recycling centre on the county council website: [Norfolk Recycling Centre bookings](#) or by calling 03448008020.

The Norfolk Crisis and Resilience Grant Fund

This grant programme run by Norfolk County Council supports people facing financial hardship and builds long-term resilience. It provides funding to voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to deliver larger-scale, preventative projects across Norfolk. This programme does not fund one-off crisis payments, but focuses on earlier intervention and long-term impact. Grants of between £50,000 and £200,000 are available. Organisations interested in applying should email communities@norfolk.gov.uk to register their interest or contact me on victoria.holliday.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Free workshops to help people drive safely for longer

In partnership with Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service, Norfolk County Council's public health road safety team is offering free workshops for drivers aged 60 and over to help them drive safely for longer. The workshop covers how driving can change as you get older, key Highway Code updates and practical tips with time to ask questions. Family members wanting to find out about support available for older people to travel safely are also welcome to book a place. Search Older Driver Workshop on the NCC website or call 03448008020. More workshops around the county will be added in the coming months.

Big Holiday Fun back

This summer's Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programme is now live, Between 20 July and 02 September, activities will take place across Norfolk Hopefully there are still free spaces available for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals, alongside paid places for those who are not eligible - look for Big Holiday Fun on the NCC website. There's lots on in North Norfolk so do have a look. There is the Government promise of free bus travel for children in August.

Fire Safety Campaign

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service is running a fire safety campaign in response to the increased risk of outdoor fires during the recent hot, dry weather especially in higher-risk coastal and inland areas.

You can support the campaign by sharing the advice locally and displaying posters in appropriate community locations. Posters can be requested from norfolkresilienceforum@norfolk.gov.uk.

Further fire safety advice, including safety both inside and outside the home, is available on the county council webpages [here](#). You can also request a free home fire safety visit if you're worried about your or a friend, neighbour or loved one's fire readiness by filling in the online form at <https://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc/>

Flood readiness

Flooding can happen at any time of year, including during the summer months. Sudden summer downpours can also cause flash flooding, particularly after prolonged hot and dry weather. Last summer, Norfolk County Council's Flood and Water team received 100 reports of flooding, including 54 confirmed cases of internal flooding. More than a third of home insurance flood claims occur between June and August, with almost a quarter occurring in July and August alone.

Flash flooding can happen quickly, affect homes and businesses not previously considered at risk, and may be difficult to predict.

You can find out more with practical flood preparation advice on the county council webpages [here](#).

Flooding anywhere in Norfolk can be reported via the Flooding Hotline on 0344 800 8013. In an emergency, or where there is immediate danger to life, residents should dial 999.

Help with living costs

The Crisis Resilience Service offers short term financial support and ways to improve your financial resilience.

Find out more at

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41957/What-the-Crisis-and-Resilience-Service-is> or call 03448008020.

Please reach out.

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If you're on benefits you can get reduced broadband packages. I have a detailed information sheet on this so please do get in touch if you'd like to find out more.

If anyone in your household has a medical condition which means you use more water than usual, Anglian Water have a scheme (WaterSure) which caps your water bill. You do need a water meter and be on certain income related benefits.

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/services/extra-support/tariff-options/watersure/apply-for-watersure>

Cllr Victoria Holliday

victoria.holliday.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Councillor Update 17th July

Norfolk Libraries - Summer Reading Challenge

Norfolk Libraries are supporting this year's Summer Reading Challenge, *Read to the Beat*, which uses children's interest in music to encourage reading and help address declining literacy levels. The challenge is important because, nationally, one in four children cannot read well by age 11, and 8.7 million adults lack basic reading skills.

In Norfolk, 10,330 children up to the age of 11 took part last year, showing strong local engagement with the scheme.

The challenge runs from Saturday 4 July to Saturday 12 September, with free children's activities in Norfolk libraries, including sessions with professional music and dance artists. A full list of events can be found [here](#).

All 47 libraries and mobile libraries in Norfolk are taking part, and more than 1,000 children have already signed up.

There is a mini challenge for under-fives, while children aged 4 to 11 can set their own reading goals and explore music-themed reading lists.

Children who complete the challenge will receive a medal and certificate.

Norfolk Museums - summer holiday activities

Norfolk museums are hosting a range of summer holiday programs from mid-July to early September. Highlights include medieval activities at Norwich Castle, celebrating the 100th birthday at the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell, nature and historical trails at Gressenhall Farm, pirate-themed fun at Time & Tide, and audio-visual trails at Strangers' Hall.

Further details of what's on at Norfolk Museums are available [here](#).

Healthy Ageing: feel connected campaign

Public Health Norfolk's *Feel Connected* campaign is encouraging older residents to stay socially active as part of a wider two-year healthy ageing initiative. The current phase runs from 6 July to 20 August 2026 and focuses on reducing loneliness and isolation by helping people aged 55 and over, particularly those approaching retirement, living alone or at risk of isolation, to find local opportunities to connect with others.

Norfolk has one of the highest ageing populations in the UK and around 125,500 people living alone. Social isolation and loneliness are linked to poorer physical and mental health, higher mortality and increased reliance on health and social care services. The campaign highlights the benefits of spending time with others, sharing experiences and feeling part of a community.

Residents can find local activities and support at www.norfolk.gov.uk/feelconnected.

They can also subscribe to the Healthy Ageing newsletter at www.norfolk.gov.uk/healthyageing

Posters and postcards can also be downloaded from the Health Information Resource Service website [here](#). Additional copies can be requested from sophie.harrison@norfolk.gov.uk.

National Updates

Future of Rural England Report

The Government has published the [Future of Rural England report](#), which sets out a long-term vision for improving opportunities and quality of life in rural communities.

Drafted by the Rural Taskforce (a group of rural stakeholders brought together in April 2025 to explore the strengths and opportunities for rural areas), the report highlights challenges around housing, transport, healthcare, digital connectivity, skills and economic opportunity. It also emphasises the need to support rural businesses, strengthen local services and help communities remain sustainable and resilient.

The report focuses on making sure that rural communities are considered in future government policy and investment decisions.

A new cross-government board will oversee this work, with annual public reporting on progress.

The report is particularly relevant to Norfolk because of the county's large rural population and similar challenges around access to services, connectivity, resilience, and economic growth.

30by30 Land Delivery Plan

The Government has published a [30by30 on Land Delivery Plan](#), setting out how England will conserve and manage 30% of land for nature by 2030. Only 7% of land currently meets the criteria, although around 32% already contributes or has potential to contribute.

The plan is relevant for Norfolk because of the county's protected landscapes, coastline, natural assets and habitat restoration opportunities. It highlights the role of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, protected sites, public sector land and local partnerships, but does not provide significant new direct funding for local authorities. Instead, it seeks to align existing funding and attract more private investment.

Support for unpaid carers

The Government has published a new [cross-government action plan](#) to improve support for unpaid carers in England.

Nearly one in ten people is an unpaid carer, with many experiencing pressures on their work, education, health and wellbeing, as well as difficulties accessing breaks

from caring. The plan focuses on three priorities: recognising carers, referring them to support and helping them reach their potential. It includes 42 actions, with overall accountability sitting with a cross-government ministerial group chaired by the Minister of State for Care.

The Norfolk county council webpages already bring together a wide range of support for unpaid carers living in Norfolk, available [here](#).

County Council update

From Victoria Holliday <victoria.holliday.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk>
To Victoria Holliday <avictoriaholliday@icloud.com>
Date 2026-06-14 12:22

 Norfolk Warm Homes.pdf (~183 KB)

Dear all

A few updates from the County Council, below.

Can I also highlight the Norfolk Warm Homes Scheme providing home energy efficiency improvements (eg insulation, air source heat pumps and solar panels) available to anyone on a low income or means tested benefits (see attached).

Apprenticeship Norfolk – event at the Forum in Norwich 16 June

Norfolk's apprenticeships and opportunities fair is back. It's Norfolk's largest apprenticeships-focused fair and this year there are 40 local employers and apprenticeship training providers exhibiting, along with support from experienced apprenticeship ambassadors.

Organised by Apprenticeships Norfolk, the event at The Forum on Tuesday 16 June is for anyone who is looking for an apprenticeship or would like to know more about them.

Apprenticeships Norfolk provide free advice and guidance for apprenticeship seekers and step-by-step support for employers looking to offer apprenticeships.

Further details about the fair are available on the website [page here](#).

If anyone is looking for an apprenticeship or wanting to know more about apprenticeship opportunities in Norfolk, to the county council's Apprenticeships webpages [here](#).

Redundancy Support Service launches new online portal

Norfolk County Council's Redundancy Support Service (RSS) has recently launched a new online portal to help residents and businesses access support where there is a risk of redundancy.

The RRSS is running as a pilot until September 2027 and is evaluated on an ongoing basis. The pilot was originally initiated to support an estimated 15,000 redundancies across the county stemming from major cutbacks at Lotus Cars and the local NHS.

[The new portal](#) enables people to explore their options and contact the team for support at what can be a particularly stressful time. It also provides case studies.

The RSS team is also keen to hear from partner organisations that may be able to help support Norfolk residents and businesses.

If anyone is worried about redundancy, please do get in touch.

Drowning Prevention Week: Norfolk Water Safety Forum

Following recent water-related deaths across the country and in Norfolk, the Norfolk Water Safety Forum is encouraging communities to support Drowning Prevention Week.

Running from 13-20 June, the [Royal Life Saving Society campaign](#) helps children and young people learn how to stay safe around water.

Norfolk Water Safety Forum partners, including Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service, Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Police, the Broads Authority, the RNLI and HM Coastguard, will be sharing social media messages and promoting a free lesson pack for schools and youth groups.

Do check out the [link to the resources on the Norfolk County Council website](#).

National Updates

Potholes and road maintenance: new government reporting requirements

Highways Maintenance Transparency Reports were introduced by the Department for Transport (DfT) in 2025.

DfT has [announced new rules](#) requiring councils to show how they are fixing potholes, future-proofing roads and investing in longer-term preventative maintenance.

The new requirements shift reporting from describing activity to proving outcomes and value for money, with compliance now linked to funding. Reports must set out planned and delivered works, how highways funding is being used, and action to reduce repeat repairs.

The new reports will be published in September 2026 and will inform eligibility for Government highways incentive funding and the next red, amber and green road maintenance ratings.

Norfolk was rated amber in 2025/26, alongside most local highway authorities. [Norfolk's highways maintenance transparency report 2025/26](#) highlights the scale of the county's network, including nearly 10,000km of roads, and its focus on preventative maintenance, early intervention and whole-life costing.

Do report potholes and road defects through the Norfolk County Council website, so they are logged, assessed and prioritised through the proper highways process. The reporting form can be found [here](#).

Flu programme 2026/27: eligible groups confirmed

The Government has published its [annual flu letter](#), setting out the 2026/27 flu immunisation programme and the groups eligible for vaccination. This is relevant to local health protection, winter preparedness and support for vulnerable residents.

This year's programme will include rough sleepers and people using homeless hostels. Community pharmacies will also continue to deliver a vaccination service for children aged two and three, helping improve access for families.

The NHS advises that flu vaccination helps protect people at higher risk of serious illness and can also reduce pressure on health and care services over the winter period.

A snapshot of entry level hiring in the UK

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology has [produced a brief](#) published by LinkedIn and the AI & the Future of Work Unit, which analyses UK entry-level hiring trends using LinkedIn data.

The key findings are that entry-level hiring is weak but falling broadly in line with the wider labour market, although the overall picture masks significant variation. Of 38 tracked entry-level occupations, 30 are declining. Information-processing roles are falling fastest: Accountant (-29%), Graphic Designer (-28%) and Software Engineer (-27%), while sales and customer-facing roles are growing.

The occupations declining most sharply are also those where AI has become most visibly capable, but they say further research is needed before conclusions can be drawn.

The brief also finds that a skills mismatch is making entry harder in declining occupations, with employers favouring experienced candidates who already have the operational skills most entry-level candidates lack.

Entry-level hiring shapes the long-run composition of the workforce and affects the supply of skilled workers for years to come.

This is relevant to Norfolk because weaker entry-level hiring could make it harder for young people, graduates and career changers to move into skilled work, affecting residents' employment prospects and the future workforce available to local employers. The findings underline the importance of local routes into employment, including apprenticeships, work experience and employer-led training, which support both individual opportunity and Norfolk's wider economic growth. They also reinforce the county council's role in working with schools, colleges, universities, employers, partners and training providers to strengthen the local skills system and help meet local labour market needs.

Cllr. Victoria Holliday
Norfolk County Council: Wells
Teams number :+ 441603223037

I, Victoria Holliday, am a data controller and am committed to protecting the privacy and security of the personal information you give to me or that I hold about you. "Personal information" means any information about you or from which you can be identified.

This privacy notice describes how I collect and use personal information about you in my role as a county councillor in accordance with data protection legislation. If you have any questions about this privacy notice or how I handle your personal information, please contact me at Victoria.holliday.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

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The Norfolk Crisis and Resilience Grant Fund

This grant programme run by Norfolk County Council supports people facing financial hardship and builds long-term resilience. It provides funding to voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to deliver larger-scale, preventative projects across Norfolk. These should

- Help people avoid reaching crisis
- Build financial resilience over time
- Strengthen community-based support
- Work alongside (not duplicate) existing services in Norfolk

This programme does not fund one-off crisis payments, but focuses on earlier intervention and long-term impact

Grants of between £50,000 and £200,000 are available.

Organisations can apply if they:

- Are a VCSE organisation (e.g. charity, community group or social enterprise)
- Deliver services that benefit Norfolk residents
- Have appropriate governance and financial controls
- Have experience delivering community-based work
- Have the capacity to manage a grant of this size

Partnership bids are welcome, as long as a VCSE organisation leads the application.

This fund is not open to:

- Public sector organisations (including councils, town and parish councils, schools and NHS bodies)
- Individual applicants
- Private businesses applying for commercial gain
- Organisations with political associations or interests
- Organisations that mainly distribute grants to other organisations

NCC is particularly interested in projects that:

- Support people on low incomes or at risk of hardship
- Help people stabilise or increase their income
- Reduce financial pressures or unexpected costs
- Provide support that leads to longer-term change

- Strengthen local organisations and community networks
- Improve access to help and advice

Projects should contribute to at least one of these areas and demonstrate lasting impact.

Key details

Grants of £50,000 to £200,000 are available for projects running over 18 - 24 months

Applications will open in late June 2026 and close at midnight on 13 September 2026, with decisions expected in October

Organisations interested in applying should email communities@norfolk.gov.uk to register their interest or contact me on victoria.holliday.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Youth Jobs Grant for Businesses

From 30 June 2026, businesses can access the new Youth Jobs Grant, which will pay £3,000 for every eligible young person they hire and help more young people to take their first step on the career ladder.

To apply, employers need to complete an online application and accept a short set of terms and conditions. Jobs must be at least 25 hours per week and expected to last at least four months to be eligible for the grant.

Following a successful application, an eligible young person will be identified by the Jobcentre. If hired, the employer will receive funding in two instalments once employment and earnings have been verified by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Further information and a link to the online application form are available [here](#). Or let me know if you have questions.

Making websites easier to read

NCC is committed to making our websites, digital systems and information easier to use. We know that background colour can affect how easy text is to look at and read.

Complete this short survey to tell us how background colours affect you. Your feedback will help us make decisions about colours on our websites, digital systems and information.

The survey is anonymous and only has 8 questions. It's open until 1 August 2026

NNDC update – Anglian Water 10th June.

We thought it would be helpful to provide an update on the 2025 storm overflow data for the district, which was published since our last appearance, together with the latest position on bathing waters and planned investment.

Since we appeared in December, the validated Event Duration Monitor returns for storm discharges have been published for 2025. These show that **storm overflows in North Norfolk discharged a total of 227 times – an average of 7.6 spills per storm overflow for an average of 29.3 hours.** This is significantly lower than the figures for previous years, with the duration of spills nearly 90% lower than in 2024.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Spills	652	625	382	457	714	227
Total Duration	10192.73	6874.75	3302.88	3288.12	8547.57	878.259
Average Spills	32.60	27.17	13.17	15.23	23.80	7.57
Average duration	509.64	298.90	113.89	109.60	284.92	29.28

The dry weather has helped our performance, but it is not the main reason. While lower rainfall over the summer meant storm overflows were needed less often, performance was still better than previous years when we've had similar levels of rainfall. Our teams are working incredibly hard to improve performance and we're pleased this improved data shows we're on the right track.

We've also seen the start of the new bathing water season with all seven bathing waters in the district rated as Excellent. Environment Agency figures show that 96.3% of designated bathing waters in the Anglian Water region are rated 'Good' or 'Excellent', reinforcing the East of England's position as home to the cleanest bathing waters in the country.

We're very grateful to the Council for our ongoing partnership working on this and other key issues and for joining us to promote the quality of the bathing waters in North Norfolk in recent communications about the start of the season.

We're also grateful to the Council and the local community for bearing with us whilst we put things right after the burst sewer pipe next to the pumping station in Mundesley at the start of the year. We worked closely with officers and ward councillors (as well as the RNLI on site) to keep them updated as work progressed, installing a temporary overland pipe to manage flows whilst the complex repair was planned, with all work being completed in time for the start of the bathing water season.

In addition, work is gathering pace on the delivery of our biggest ever programme of capital investment. We're **Building for Better** over the next five years to upgrade critical infrastructure across the region, including in North Norfolk.

Pleased to report that since our last appearance, work has been completed on the new storm tank at Aldborough which will store water during periods of rainfall, helping to reduce storm overflow discharges in the area. This represents an investment of over £600,000.

Other upcoming projects to tackle storm overflow discharges (subject to review) include:

- spill reduction schemes at Briston, Fakenham and Horning Knacker's Wood WRCs
- a spill reduction scheme at Mundesley for all assets affecting bathing waters (including Gimmingham)
- new storm overflow screening at Briston, Ludham and Runton West Lane
- surface water management schemes to improve resilience for Potter Heigham, Horning, Hoveton and Hickling

Investigations are also planned at several sites into reducing storm overflow spills. The outcome of these investigations may identify and inform the scope of any future improvement schemes.

Other planned investment (again subject to review) includes schemes to reduce the amount of Phosphorous in treated wastewater at 12 WRCs, as well as schemes at 3 WRCs to reduce Nitrogen levels – helping to combat nutrient pollution and improve river water quality.

We're also investing in water supply to ensure we continue to provide top quality drinking water for customers and that our network is resilient to climate change and growth across the region. As part of this, we're investing at Houghton St Giles to upgrade the Water Treatment Works as well as replacing more than 10km of water pipes in North Norfolk by 2030. Our mains replacement work in North Norfolk represents an investment of £2.4million and includes schemes at Black Lane in Croxton, Marriott Way in Brixton and Church Rod in Lower Bodham.

We're also continuing delivery of our Strategic Pipeline which will increase water supply resilience in Norfolk as well as looking to bring forward plans for a desalination plant in Norfolk which would eventually provide 25-85 million litres of drinking water per day. This will be on the Norfolk coast, and a preferred site is expected by the end of 2026. If approved, we anticipate that the plant would produce water for supply in 2036-38.

As we head into summer with one Amber Heat Health Alert already behind us, we'd be grateful for any help the Council can provide to encourage residents to be water-wise and

use water carefully. We're currently encouraging customers to make small changes which can make a big difference to the amount of water they are using, and an upcoming national Water Efficiency Campaign will also emphasise the importance of reducing water consumption.

Finally, I wanted to mention our £5.8 million Thriving Communities Fund which we launched last year to support locally led projects delivering lasting environmental and social benefits. This shareholder-funded initiative is designed to empower community groups and partnerships to improve their local environment and create positive social impact, with 11 projects supported across the Anglian Water region through the first round.

Applications for the next round of funding for between £5,000-£50,000 opened on 1st June and the deadline is 1st August. We welcome your support in sharing this opportunity and encouraging groups in North Norfolk to apply. Happy to share details about this after the meeting. [[Anglian Water's Thriving Communities Fund](#)]

Again belated apologies for last night

From Victoria Holliday <victoria.holliday.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk>
To clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Date 2026-05-27 13:51

Dear all

Again, belated apologies for last night.
Here is an update from NCC

I'm meeting with Chris and his boss Monday so do please send any Highways issues for me to discuss before then. Thank you.

The Wells Recycling Centre has shown a significant increase in usage since the booking system was introduced and there are no plans to close it.

Don't forget the next household hazardous waste days are this Fri and Sat at Hempton Recycling Centre and at Norwich South Friday 5th and Saturday 6th June. You will need to book in advance either online

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/62632/Norfolk-Recycling-Centre-bookings>
Or by phone, call 03448008020

25 new places for children with autism are being provided at Alderman Peel High School to help the children integrate into mainstream education with the right specialist help in place. These should be completed by October 2026.

I'm trying to find out whether the Social Services staff at the Glaven and Heritage House can help residents with their application to the Crisis Resilience Service

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41957/What-the-Crisis-and-Resilience-Service-is>

If anyone in your household has a medical condition which means you use more water than usual, Anglian Water have a scheme (WaterSure) which caps your water bill. You do need a water meter and be on certain income related benefits. Find out more at

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/services/extra-support/tariff-options/watersure/apply-for-watersure>

Recycling centres can still only accept large household appliances such washing machines, tumble driers, dishwashers and cookers at recycling centres, but not fridge freezers and small electricals including batteries and light bulbs. This is because NCC has to apply for a new recycling facility as the previous one was destroyed by fire.

Please let me know if you have any questions at all about Highways, adult social care, children's services, education, special needs, waste disposal, public health, adult learning, libraries, museums etc!

Thanks very much indeed.

Very best wishes

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