**District Councillor Report – June 2023**

**Community Awards:**

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Description automatically generatedWe are celebrating the stars of our Community. I will be attending the Awards Ceremony on the 30th June at Bawburgh Golf Club as two individuals from Trowse have been nominated.

**Nutrient Neutrality:**

You will be aware of the challenges that Norfolk local authorities and the development sector are facing in relation to nutrient neutrality. Significant progress has been made to tackle this issue and I believe that the work being done in Norfolk is now at the vanguard of the nationwide response to nutrient neutrality.

The most notable step forward in recent weeks is the establishment of a joint venture: Norfolk Environmental Credits Ltd, a not-for-profit company comprising of the affected local authorities and Anglian Water.

The aim of the Company will be to source nutrient mitigation and then sell phosphorus and nitrogen credits to developers and agents that otherwise would not be able to bring forward their housing schemes. Currently over 16,000 homes are on hold due to nutrient neutrality and whilst there are no credits available yet, discussions on several mitigation sources are at an advanced stage and we expect to be trading by late-summer.

[www.norfolkenvironmentalcredits.co.uk](http://www.norfolkenvironmentalcredits.co.uk)

**Cabinet Meeting:**

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Following the election, I have held my position on South Norfolk’s Cabinet, with a slight change to my portfolio, “Stronger, Greener Economy”.

We had our first Cabinet Meeting on Monday in our new home, the Horizon building.

At this meeting we covered:

Gypsy & Traveller sites for the Local Plan.

Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework: Planning in Health Protocol.

South Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Partnership's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Strategic Performance, Risk and Finance Report for Quarter 4 2022/23.

Rural England Prosperity Fund.

**Parish/Town Forum:**

Following the last Parish/Town Council Forum held on the 7th June, you should have received an email with all the presentations from the Forum. This covered funding that is available in respect of our “Pride in Place” scheme.

I have attached them below in case you did not receive them.

   

The next meeting will be in September/October.

**East Anglia GREEN project:**

I have attached below some information I have received regarding this project.

“We are continuing work to support the delivery of new sources of renewable energy to homes and businesses across East Anglia and the UK.

A close-up of a power line

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceTo make it clear that this work is part of [The Great Grid Upgrade](https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade), we are changing the project name from East Anglia GREEN to ‘*Norwich to Tilbury’*. All National Grid projects that are part of The Great Grid Upgrade will include specific locations in their names to make it easier for people to understand where we are proposing to build new grid infrastructure.

Norwich to Tilbury is one of a number of projects being developed as part of The Great Grid Upgrade – the largest overhaul of the grid in generations.

While we are still at an early stage of developing our proposals, we have made good progress since our consultation last year. We have reviewed all the feedback received and conducted surveys and assessments, alongside holding discussions with various stakeholders. We have made a number of changes and we will soon publish our proposed preferred draft alignment, which will show potential positions for overhead lines and underground cables.”

There is also a short video below:

[Norwich to Tilbury (brightcove.net)](https://players.brightcove.net/867903724001/default_default/index.html?videoId=6329269865112)

**May Gurney site:**

I have listed some key points regarding the above site.

* Deal Ground and May Gurney site will be submitted as one planning application.
* Both Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council will them determine the two sites as one.
* Roughly 80 properties are to be built on the May Gurney site.
* One access has been approved by Highways in the outline application, this is the current entrance to the site.  It will also serve access to the Deal Ground site with a bridge being built over the river for cars to access the Deal Ground site.
* We have received a written report from a contractor who specialises in the removal of Japanese Knotweed and they confirm they have been working on the May Gurney site since 2021 to deal with the knotweed on the site.  (They did not request the trees needed to be removed nor have anything to do with the removal).
* The Forestry Commission put a stop notice on both the May Gurney and Deal Ground sites on the 28th April to ensure no more trees could be removed, and they are now visiting the site grading the trees that were cut down and they are likely to serve something called a re-stocking notice for what they want re-planted.
* The Police have also visited the site and are communicating with both the Japanese Knotweed Contractor and the Forestry Commission.
* SNC have advised the Agent who is dealing with the May Gurney site that they will have to provide a new Drainage Scheme which will have to be acceptable to the Lead Local Flood Authority and the Environment Agency, Transport Scheme as the old one is nearly 10 years old (which will include the entrance) and be acceptable with Highways and a Landscape Strategy which will show new planting and where it will go.
* All of this has to be included with the full application which will need to be received by the end of June to ensure it is registered before the outline expires.

The latest update I have received from the Planning Officer is that we are still awaiting confirmation from the Forestry Commission whether they will be serving a formal Re-Stocking Notice on the developers.

Both Norwich City Council and SNC have also been contacted by the enforcement team at the Environment Agency as they are carrying out an investigation into whether the tree removal has increased the risk of flood along this part of the river. They will let us know when this is completed and would then like a discussion with us and the Forestry Commission.

With regard to the developers’ proposals, we understand that a reserved matters application for up to 670 dwellings for both the May Gurney and Deal Ground site will be submitted to both Councils in w/c 26th June.