

TROWSE WITH NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, held on 21st July 2025 in The Manor Rooms, Trowse at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllr Bowers (chair), Cllr Owen, Cllr Haynes, Cllr P Greenizan, Cllr King, Cllr A Greenizan, Cllr Cartner and Cllr Price, Cllr Gorman.

026 (001) APOLOGIES

None for this meeting.

027 (002) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs on the Manor Rooms Management Committee, those with allotments, Trowse School Governors and Trowse Historical Society.

028 (003) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th June were agreed and signed.

029 (004). PUBLIC FORUM

4.1

Written District reports – from Cllr Neal and Cllr Fowler are at end of minutes and website

Written County report – from Cllr Thomson at end of minutes and website

4.2. A resident presented some information to Councillors about a flooding issue on White Horse Lane which was causing pedestrians to walk into the road to avoid. This happens in sudden downpours and takes some time to dissipate afterward. The resident spoke to Cllr Thomson ahead of the meeting and made him aware of the issue. It was thought that this was a gully pot issue, but so far, clearing of the gully has been unsuccessful. **Clerk to contact Highways and seek information.**

A resident mentioned the need to water the plants in the Beryl Bike stands and the planters around the Common and asked if it was possible to put a water butt off the bus shelter to aid this. It was mentioned that this has previously been discussed at an Open Spaces meeting. It was also thought that water butts could be placed in other locations around the village, where possible, to promote and encourage water storage.

A request was made for golf putter for the Summer Vibes event. **Clerk to put something on Facebook.**

030 (005) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Decisions/Actions	Responsible person
May Gurney trees	Clerk to chase again with Forestry Comm/Local MP (actioned)
Allotment tree	Clerk (actioned)

It was reported that the Clerk did email the local MP about the tree issue, but so far, there has been no reply.

031 (006) COMMITTEE UPDATES

6.1 Update from Personnel and Communications committee.

Cllr Greenizan gave a brief report about the most recent P&C meeting. It was hoped that the next newsletter will go out before the summer event. The sickness absence policy is still in progress, and staff appraisals will be undertaken shortly.

6.2 Update from Finance Committee

Signed:

Date:

Cllr King updated members on the Finance Committee. The Nationwide account is finally update to date with signatories. Investigations are being made into other savings accounts with online access. The month budget versus actuals was reviewed.

6.3 Update from Open Spaces Committee

Cllr Owen updated members. There have been questions about what to do with the newly refurbished phone box. A small article in the newsletter will canvas opinions. The allotments are at full capacity. The results of the Bat Survey are in. Following the most recent paly area inspection it was noted that two of the larger items are coming to the end of their life. So, replacements are being investigated.

- a) To discuss and approve recommendation from OS committee re the urgent tree works and contractor. **Following the decision made at the Open Spaces committee Cllr Owen made the proposal that the urgent tree works be undertaken by Access Arboriculture. Seconded by Cllr Haynes. All in favour. Clerk to action.**

032 (007) MANOR ROOMS

Cllr Greenizan gave a brief run down of activities taking place at the Manor Rooms. During the summer event the MR will be opening as a tearoom. The date for the AGM will be announced shortly but it is expected to be in September.

033 (008) FINANCIAL MATTERS

8.1 - Agreement of payments for June 2025 – Approved.

8.2 - Agreement of Bank Reconciliation for June 2025 – Approved.

034 (009) PLANNING

- a) Applications.

2025/0642 - 11 Blockhill Cottages Kirby Road Trowse Norfolk NR14 8RP – Revised applications for Lean-to conservatory. No objection.

BA/2025/0125/FUL - Installation of 8.8m of quay-heading to join existing quay-heading to improve access and egress. Step to existing sloped area. | Water Sports Base, Norwich Canoe Club Whitlingham Lane Trowse Norfolk NR14 8TR. No objection.

BA/2025/0177/LBC - Repair of ruins including capping of walls using hot lime mortar | Trowse Newton Hall (Ruins) Whitlingham Lane Trowse Norfolk NR14 8TR. No objection.

035 (010) POLICIES AND OTHER ITEMS

10.1 Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr Bowers asked if anyone would be interested in resurrecting the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. It was thought that as we have recent had some anti-social behaviour in the village that this might be of interest. Cllr Price asked if it works and it was queried how the police get involved if there is an incident. Cllr Gorman asked what it entails and the Clerk was asked to seek some more information, both on the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and its implementation/practice from other Clerks.

036 (011) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETIING.

Monday 15th September 2025 @ 7.15pm.

037 (012). To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the duration of item 16a in view of the confidential and personal nature of the business to be transacted. If resolved, such items to be dealt after the item that confirms details of the next meeting

12.1 – To discuss and consider actions pertaining to legal advice received. Cllr Greenizan left the room.

Cllr Bowers and the Clerk gave members information regarding recent investigations and discussions about an ongoing matter. Much discussion took place.

A legal bill has been received and Cllr Bowers asked members for authorisation to make this payment. **Proposed Cllr Bowers, seconded Cllr Haynes. All in favour.**

Signed:

Date:

Meeting closed at 9.pm

Decisions/Actions	Responsible person
White Horse Lane Flooding	Clerk
Tree works	Clerk
Neighbourhood Watch	Clerk
Legal bill payment	Clerk

District Reports June 25

Lisa Neal

Flag for VJ Day:



South Norfolk Council is inviting local businesses and community groups to take part in a district-wide tribute to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, the day that signalled the end of World War II and the conclusion of global hostilities.

As part of the commemorations, the Council is distributing Union Flags to businesses and parish councils across the district, encouraging them to raise their flags by 15 August, the

official date of VJ Day.

The aim is to see 80 flags flying, one for each year since the end of the war, as a powerful symbol of remembrance and unity.

The initiative has already launched, with flags now flying outside Council buildings. Local businesses and parish councils are encouraged to come forward and take part and show collective pride and remembrance as a community.

To request a flag, please contact the Communities Team at: communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Town and Parish Council Forum:



Love Your Market
Town .pptx



Age Friendly Norwich
- Town and Parish For



TPC Forum -
08.07.docx

The last Forum was held on the 8th July.

It covered the following items:

- NALC Conference Highlights
- Devolution Update
- LGR Update
- Love Your Market Towns Fund
- Age-Friendly Communities
- 80th Anniversary Flags

I have attached some slides, a poster and the agenda which provide more information on these topics.

The next Forum will be held on the 2nd September at 2:00pm.

Signed:

Date:

Postal Votes:

As part of the second tranche of measures under the Elections Act 2022, a new system for absent vote applications was introduced in October 2023, including the launch of a central government online portal. This system requires applicants for postal or proxy votes to provide:

- National Insurance number
- Date of birth
- Handwritten signature (scanned when applying online)

The final stage of these reforms requires all existing postal voters who have not reapplied under the new system to do so by 31 January 2026. Failure to reapply will result in the cancellation of their postal vote.

We have already contacted voters for whom we hold an email address. An initial email was sent to 9,907 voters, followed by two reminder emails. This campaign, running from March to July 2025, has resulted in approximately 3,000 successful reapplications.

We are now preparing to send paper reapplication forms to those who have not responded or for whom we do not have an email address, the Elections and Communications teams will implement a comprehensive communications strategy starting in August 2025, using:

- Social media
- Local community groups
- Council services
- South Norfolk Link magazine and other media outlets

The aim is to maximise awareness and engagement throughout the reapplication period.

We ask for your help to:

- Raise awareness of the new postal vote requirements
- Support residents in understanding and completing the reapplication process
- Signpost voters to the Elections Team for assistance
- Remind voters that failure to reapply will result in the cancellation of their postal vote
- Encourage voters to re-apply early and online where possible

For any queries, please contact:

Stuart Guthrie Electoral Services Manager stuart.guthrie@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk 📞 01603 430645

South Norfolk food-waste project:



The Environment Act 2021 requires councils to run separate weekly food-waste collections, and South Norfolk will introduce the service in 2026.

Caddies, liners and vehicles are already on order. In August 2025 a small routing tweak (3,681 households) will move those properties onto the standard alternate-weekly cycle ahead of the full roll-out, letters will be sent two weeks in advance. A public-information campaign starts in January 2026, before collections go live later that year.

Virtual Agents – A New Way to Help Our Customers:

Signed:

Date:

We have decided to run a twelve month pilot of AI-powered Virtual Agents on our phones and website. Virtual Agents (yet to be named!) would answer common questions (like “How do I pay my Council Tax?”) 24/7, helping customers self-serve quickly and easily.

This is part of our Customer Experience Programme to:

- Make services easier to access
- Improve customer experience
- Manage growing demand more effectively

The idea of the pilot is to add a new digital channel, although it will not replace existing ones. We’ll still offer the same face-to-face and phone support, especially for those who need it.

South Norfolk Council Licensing Act 2003: Statement of Policy Review:

The Licensing Act 2003 requires each Local Licensing Authority to publish a Statement of Policy every five years, which sets out the general principles to be applied to licensing under the Act within the Licensing Authority’s area.

The Act also requires that we consult with interested parties (i.e. police, fire, licence holders and representatives of local businesses and residents etc.), before we publish our Statement of Policy.

We are proposing that minor amendments are made to the Policy, you can see the proposed Policy by clicking the link below:

www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/licensing/licences/licensing-policies/licensing-act-2003

The amendments are highlighted in yellow.

The consultation will run for six weeks commencing on the 21 July 2025 until the 1 September 2025.

We would welcome your comments on these proposals and they can be submitted using the below email:
licensingpolicies@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Solar Farms:

May have seen in media SNC has drawn up a new guide for developers of mega solar farms, we have a real concern on the number of applications we are receiving for renewable energy. I have listed some below:

We have the National Grids pylons from Norwich to Tilbury

East Pye Solar Farm – 2,700 acres spread across South Norfolk

An unnamed site for over 5,000 acres in Gissing

Another site near Long Stratton for 2,500 acres

A Tasway Scheme for approx. 3,000 acres west of the Town

SNC doesn’t make the decision on these large schemes the Secretary of State will.

Therefore we are lobbying the Government stating that we are not against renewable energy schemes but we are being swamped, and we have a concern regarding the amount of agricultural land we are losing.

Nicola Fowler District Report

Local Government Reform Update

The South Norfolk Working Party looking at Local Government Reform are still going through the process of drawing together information for a more detailed business proposal backing the two unitary authority model, which will be submitted in September. The draft drawn up by the consultants on behalf of South Norfolk District Council will be put to the Group at the end of July for review.

For more information on the South Norfolk Council’s position please click on the following link:

Signed:

Date:

South Norfolk Council: Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Norfolk | Broadland and South Norfolk

There is also a meeting of the committee on Wednesday 23rd which will review all the feedback from the recent survey on the public's views on the reorganisation.

Cllr Vic Thomson- County Report

Devo and RPG

Councillors have backed a report which says replacing Norfolk's eight councils with one would save £36.2m per year and deliver the biggest benefits to residents.

Norfolk County Council's cabinet today selected a single unitary council as its preferred option, which will be developed into a detailed proposal and submitted to the Government in September.

County council leader, Councillor Kay Mason Billig, said the council had gathered and considered evidence and listened to the public's priorities - value for money, no fragmentation of services and keeping services as local as possible.

She said: "That all adds up to one Norfolk and one council."

Norfolk County Council has studied data and evidence on the pros and cons of one, two or three unitary councils and asked the public what mattered to them about local councils and services. It is proposing that its preferred option is one unitary council, covering the whole area.

Having one council would cut costs, join up services for residents and ensure strong financial foundations, according to the draft options appraisal report considered by the cabinet.

The county council's report says that the key benefits of one council for Norfolk are:

- **A single council would mean consistent services, delivered across the whole of Norfolk, with equal levels of Council Tax, service quality and services available, wherever you live**
- **It would save £36.2m per year, by cutting duplication, reducing the number of chief officers and councillors and having economies of scale when purchasing services. Start-up costs would be repaid in a year**
- **It avoids the risks and costs of splitting up complex, county-wide services like adult social services, children's services and highways - which would incur extra costs of between £20.4m and £33.6m per year, if there were two or three unitary councils**
- **It recognises the role of greater Norwich as an economic centre of activity for the whole county and highlights the importance of not creating an artificial boundary around it, which would stifle growth**

The report's conclusion says: "We have an opportunity to create a new council for Norfolk which can:

- **Be a powerful advocate for Norfolk - speaking up and influencing as one voice for local communities, creating more impact, both with any Norfolk/Suffolk mayor and with the Government, businesses and investors**
- **Be accountable - our residents would know that one council was responsible for all of the services, removing confusion. There would be one set of locally elected councillors, with one set of elections**
- **Be efficient - removing duplication and bureaucracy and joining up services to deliver better value for money**
- **Enable devolution - through a single, clear and concise set of strategic priorities for Norfolk and simplifying decision-making**

Signed:

Date:

- **Avoid the use of untested models for delivering critical services to children, families, older people and some of the most vulnerable of our residents"**

Now that a preferred option has been selected, there will be further engagement. The preferred option will be developed into a detailed proposal, to be submitted to the Government by 26 September. Ministers will take the final decision on what council structure to adopt.

The draft interim submission report highlights a range of potential benefits from having a single unitary council system, including:

- **ending confusion - people would know that one council would deliver all services in their area.**
- **delivering value for money - with fewer sets of senior officers, councillors and council headquarters, freeing up money to invest in services.**
- **joining up services, to make them more effective - such as bin collection and waste disposal and enabling housing and social care to work more closely together;**
- **ensuring strong local links, through close working with town and parish councils, or local boards.**

Voting changes

Mayor will be alternative vote

16 year olds to vote

Fires

With more people heading outdoors, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is asking the public to be vigilant and report fires quickly.

Nationally, there have been several large wildfires and the National Fire Chiefs Council say above average temperatures and below average rainfall has heightened the risk.

In March, Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service attended 17 fires in the open, which is higher than usual for this time of year. Many of them were deemed to have been deliberately ignited and involved grassed areas and woodland. The incidents were spread right across the county, including King's Lynn, Gorleston, Reepham and Norwich. Crews also attended 13 outdoor fires, involving grassland, in February.

Crews have also attended several accidental outdoor fires this April, including one involving discarded cigarettes and another with a barbecue that set fire to a house.

Chief Fire Officer Ceri Sumner said: "While the risk of wildfires is higher due to a lack of rainfall and higher temperatures, it is disappointing to see that so many of these incidents were deliberate. Fires are devastating for our habitats and pose great risk to the safety of our communities. Small fires can easily and quickly spread, posing risk to the county, its people and our firefighters.

"Warmer and drier conditions elevate the risk of fires spreading, so it is really important that if people see even just a small fire they call 999 quickly. Downloading the What Three Words app also helps us if it is a woodland or remote location, as the data callers provide allows us to pinpoint exactly where the incident is quickly."

As well as deliberately ignited fires, weather conditions increase the risk of accidental fires starting.

Simple steps residents can take to help reduce the risk of wildfire include:

Not using portable barbecues, which can accidentally set light to the ground and escalate quickly.

Signed:

Date:

- Safely disposing of smoking materials such as cigarettes and matches, ensuring they are fully out.
- Disposing of rubbish in bins or taking it home. Glass bottles can pose a fire risk when discarded due to sunlight on the glass.

If you notice any suspicious behaviour or see someone intentionally starting a fire, contact the Police immediately or report the information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. If you see a fire, call 999 immediately.

The brand-new Norwich Park & Ride service is set to launch this month with a number of key enhancements for residents and visitors to enjoy, along with free travel for everyone on the first day of operation.

Norfolk County Council selected two operators to run the services following the re-tendering process at the end of last year. The process was carried out with the objective of running the services from all five sites with no subsidy from the council.

From Sunday 30 March, First Bus will operate services from Airport, Thickthorn and Sprowston while Simonds will provide the service for Harford and Postwick.

The new service will offer:

- Earlier journeys in the morning
- Later journeys into the evening
- Increased frequency at most sites
- Sunday services at all sites
- Airport, Thickthorn and Sprowston services will have zero emission buses
- Continued low fares thanks to BSIP funding

The Norwich Park & Ride service is an important part of our transport plan for Norfolk and it gives people a great value and greener option for getting into Norwich. During these difficult financial times we made it our ambition to find a solution so that this service could be run without any subsidy, and we've not only achieved that, but we're also giving people what they asked for from the service which is earlier and later buses and Sunday services."

And then on the first day of service - Sunday 30 March - residents will be able to enjoy free travel from all sites, excluding Costessey as this is not a new service.

Norfolk County Council's annual spring and summer road surface dressing programme is due to start next Monday 7 April and will see Norfolk's roads get a new seal to help prevent potholes forming and extending the life of roads with a new skid-resistant surface to reduce the risk of accidents. The work will continue through until September, to take advantage of the warmer weather.

This year 320 miles of Norfolk roads will be dressed, up from 280 miles last year thanks to extra funding received from the Department for Transport for highways maintenance this year.

The programme will target high tourism areas and main roads first, so they are complete before the start of the busy summer season. The total programme will cost around £12 million and is a proven pro-active approach to highways maintenance.

Last year, Norfolk was the top performing county council in the country when it came to road repairs. According to Department of Transport statistics, Norfolk County Council fixed 92pc of repairs reported during 2023/24, and in the same year Norfolk County Council achieved first place overall in the National Highways and Transportation customer satisfaction survey.

Surface dressing uses a waterproofing seal which consists of a thin layer of bitumen and stone chippings which is laid onto the road. This helps prevent water penetration and reduces the number of potholes forming when it freezes.

Signed:

Date:

People living along the routes which are due to be treated will receive notification a day or two before the crews arrive. They will be asked not to park on the road on the day of the surface dressing work, or on the following day when surplus chippings will be swept up. People are urged to drive slowly and considerately across the new surface until it is bedded in, and Highway Teams return to sweep up the loose chippings. This is because the passage of vehicles over the new surface plays an important part in helping the new surface to settle in.

A 20mph speed restriction is imposed during work and on freshly laid surface dressing for safety reasons.

Roadworks - fines for non-compliant roadworks in Norfolk

Norfolk County Council has issued fines totalling £685,000 in a year for non-compliant roadworks as part of its ongoing efforts to reduce the impact of roadworks upon Norfolk's communities.

The Council's role is to coordinate and manage street works across the county. In 2024/25, they issued over 44,000 street and roadwork permits, with 75% of these relating to works by utility companies and developers. Of these, 7,000 were emergency works, which often cause the most disruption. The Council rejected 5,400 permit proposals that were unacceptable. However, their powers remain limited under national legislation, so 79 utility companies have a legal right to carry out works on public highways – and in emergency situations, can begin this work before notifying the Council.

The Council does have the power to issue Fixed Penalty Fines (FPNs) to utility companies for breaches such as working without a permit or failing to comply with permit conditions.

In 2024/25, Norfolk County Council issued 2,809 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for breaches such as working without a permit or failing to meet permit conditions—raising nearly £340,000 in fines. A further £345,000 was recovered from 306 cases where works overran, causing 1,317 days of disruption across Norfolk's roads.

In addition, the Council successfully prosecuted two utility companies, resulting in court-imposed fines of nearly £100,000, with full costs awarded to the Council.

Trading Standards

Successes including tackling tobacco and alcohol sales to children and removing dangerous electrical items from sale have been highlighted in a report detailing the work done by Norfolk's Trading Standards team to keep consumers safe across the county over the last year.

"Whether it's getting counterfeit vapes removed from sale, tackling unsafe electricals which can increase fire risk or ensuring pubs are serving full measures, the work of our Trading Standards officers over the last year has made a real difference to public safety both in Norfolk and beyond," said Norfolk's Chief Fire Officer Ceri Sumner, whose fire service remit includes Trading Standards.

Over the last year, Norfolk County Council's Trading Standards team has:

- Led a project across Eastern England to examine the safety of lithium-ion batteries and chargers sold online, resulting in the removal of 1,813 unsafe items from an online marketplace. More than half of the items test-purchased were found to be unsafe, risking electric shock, fire or explosion
- Concluded eight formal investigations relating to shops selling vapes to minors, illegal tobacco and vapes and rogue tradespeople. This work resulted in five prosecutions
- Worked with partners including police and local councils to address the problem of illegal vapes, obtaining closure orders from the courts where traders persist in selling illegal vapes or selling to minors
- Calibrated more than 25,000 pieces of equipment and verified weighing and measuring instruments for local, national and international businesses- generating income which has been invested back into the vital consumer safety work of Trading Standards

- Sought to protect people from fraud, scams and rogue traders by raising awareness, working with vulnerable people and introducing more No Cold Calling Zones
- Maintained the Trusted Trader Scheme so that Norfolk's residents can find reliable and trustworthy tradespeople, supporting the local economy to add revenue of £555k between April and December 2024
- Undertaken a sampling project to check that restaurants are correctly following allergen procedures, so that consumers are not put at risk of undeclared allergens, such as peanuts, in their meals
- Removed from sale unroadworthy cars and children's toys which failed consumer safety checks, including flammability tests

As well as the above they have also dealt with animal disease outbreaks in recent month, including the blue tongue virus and avian flu outbreaks.

Norfolk County Council's Trading Standards team works very closely with a range of partners, including colleagues in Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service. Increased collaboration over the last two years has seen fire investigators and TS officers work together to identify products which have caused house fires and drive forward work to get them removed from sale. They have also partnered on battery safety and electric blanket safety sessions for the public and the joint work was highlighted as a shining example of safety collaboration by The Office of Product Safety and Standards.

Due to a national shortage of qualified Trading Standards officers, apprentices have been recruited in two cohorts over recent years, in 2022 and 2024, ensuring that Norfolk will continue to have experts not just now and into the future to fulfil the council's statutory duties.

Building on this work, Trading Standards bosses submitted their service plan for 2025-2026 for approval by Norfolk County Council's Cabinet on 7 April.

It's highlighting the key areas for the year ahead, focusing on:

- Responding to business and consumer vulnerabilities
- Environmental protection, ensuring: businesses are supported to comply with new green legislative requirements, and the service operates in a manner to support the council's net-zero ambitions
- Investment in our workforce to develop a resilient service able to respond to a continually developing legal landscape
- Development of our service in response to the Food Standards Agency's new Food Standards Delivery Model
- Continued integration with Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service to realise improved services for businesses and communities and inhouse efficiencies
- Development of our commercial services and chargeable activities: increasing our income, primarily through our calibration and chargeable business advice functions to reduce our reliance on grant funding. This will include relocation of our Calibration Centre and the implementation of a webshop to increase calibration business and efficiency

Norfolk County Council has been recognised as one of the top-performing local authorities in the UK, according to the latest Climate Action Scorecards.

Published by Climate Emergency UK, the scorecard evaluates councils on key areas such as green energy, sustainable transport, and environmental stewardship.

Norfolk County Council has achieved third place among all county councils in the UK, cementing its position as a national leader in climate action. Its overall score has improved by 3 percentage points since 2023, making it the top-performing council in Norfolk.

Signed:

Date:

Residents can see the difference in their communities. From new LED streetlights and thousands of newly planted trees to electric buses on our roads, our climate action is becoming part of everyday life in Norfolk.”

“It’s equally important that we continue this work - and that includes preparing for the impact the changes in climate will have on Norfolk. We need to ensure that we push for better protection from flooding and coastal erosion; while continuing to support our firefighters with the tools they need to deal with extreme weather events.”

The Climate Action Scorecards are an independent assessment of local authority climate action. The full results can be found at <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/county/>

Norfolk County Council has made significant strides in reducing its environmental impact and supporting a greener future for the region. This has helped the authority to slash its carbon emissions by 61% since 2016/17.

The county council’s key achievements include:

- **100% green electricity:**All council-owned and leased buildings where the council pays the electricity bill are powered by a 100% green electricity tariff.
- **LED street lighting:** The county council recently completed the upgrade of its street lighting to energy-efficient LEDs, saving over 1 million kWh of energy annually and reducing CO₂ emissions by more than 200 tonnes per year.
- **Solar power:** Rooftop solar installations now generate around 2% of the council’s building electricity needs.
- **One Million Trees:** Earlier this year, the council celebrated the planting of the 500,000th tree as part of its mission to reach 1 million trees across the county. The total has now surpassed 600,000.
- **Electric buses:**The council secured major government and operator investment which saw 70 electric buses introduced in Norwich, cutting emissions, reducing noise pollution, and saving an estimated 3,800 tonnes of CO₂ annually. This has also helped to improve air quality in the city centre.

In addition to cutting emissions, Norfolk County Council is also preparing the county for the local impacts of climate change.

Norfolk firefighters have been provided with PPE specifically for use in spate conditions where they attend fires in the open and other weather-related emergencies.

The service has also recently invested in four additional 4x4 vehicles. They have joined the existing fleet to provide off-road capability and are kitted-out with misting units.

Norfolk County Council is also strengthening the county’s climate resilience through its work with the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA).

Established in 2021, the NSFA brings together over 20 partners—including the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, and local councils—to coordinate flood risk management across the county.

The alliance established a single point of contact for residents to report flooding incidents, and has delivered multiple flood mitigation projects in areas like Shimpling, Heacham, and Gorleston.

To find out more about Norfolk County Council’s effort to tackle climate change, you can visit the council’s [website](#).

Norfolk Community fund

Grants of £200 to £2,500 for local groups across Norfolk

Projects that will bring people together, celebrate local culture and help improve life in Norfolk

Signed:

Date:

If applying for £500 or more it will be on match funding. NCC partnered with a crowd funding group to help fund your contribution

Select committee to discuss challenge of falling pupil rolls

Significant changes will be needed in Norfolk's school system as education leaders grapple with a major drop in pupil numbers.

The number of children in the education system in the county is expected to fall from a peak of nearly 10,000 in the current year 8, to fewer than 7,000 in the 2027 reception intake.

It's a challenge that is due to be discussed at the inaugural meeting of Norfolk County Council's Children, Families and Community Select Committee next week.

In a report on the Education Policy and Strategic Programme, members will hear how the council is looking to refresh its policy framework, in light of changes to legislation and the changing demographics.

"In the coming years we are going to see a large number of surplus places in our primary schools, which will affect both rural and urban schools. The reality is that with nearly a third fewer pupils we will likely need fewer schools. We need to act now to plan for this, or we will find some schools are unable to deliver the best education and may become unsustainable.

"We've already started talking to local school and academy leaders about how we can work together to find the solutions that best work for each community. This won't be easy but the focus will always be on providing the best education for our children."

Funding for schools is directly linked to pupil numbers, so the drop in rolls will impact on school budgets and is already contributing to changing staff structures in some areas.

There is also evidence that mixing year groups in classes leads to poorer outcomes for children. These factors will all be considered in the discussions

The council proposes to work in the 46 planning areas across Norfolk, engage with leaders in those areas to review the current landscape. Some of the conversations will look at formal structures such as federations and trusts, that can support resilience. Options include joining trusts or federations, increasing income, amalgamating and reviewing catchment areas. The council will provide data and evidence to help support leaders in finding solutions.

Alongside the work on school sustainability, the report details the council's suggested role as a champion for all children, convener of the system, supporter of collaboration, provider of infrastructure and intelligence leader.

It wants to support schools and academies to be self-improving and self-sustaining, bringing leaders together to develop the right local responses to support children's education.

Currently, the council is working to strengthen collaboration between schools, with a particular focus on raising attainment at Key Stage 2.

"We are already beginning to see the impact of falling rolls in some parts of the county and it is essential that we discuss this area as a committee and are able to make comments to Cabinet that can help shape the strategy.

"We know that any changes to schools can be met with a mix of emotions, which is why the proposal is to work with headteachers and academy trusts to find solutions that work for each area. Our priority, as a council, has to be to ensure that children in Norfolk get the very best education."

Weed Treatments

- This year we received additional funding to undertake an additional weed treatment. So, this year we will be undertaking 2 weed spraying treatments
- The first is programmed to start on 19th May.

Signed:

Date:

- I would anticipate the 2nd weed spray to be August / September but will depend on weed growth observed

Urban Grass Cutting

- We undertake 4 urban cuts.
- The first urban cut started on 7 April and will broadly be completed now.
- The 2nd cut is programmed to commence on 19 May.
- The remaining 2 cuts will be scheduled based on levels of growth experienced in the summer period, although this likely to be July and September respectively.

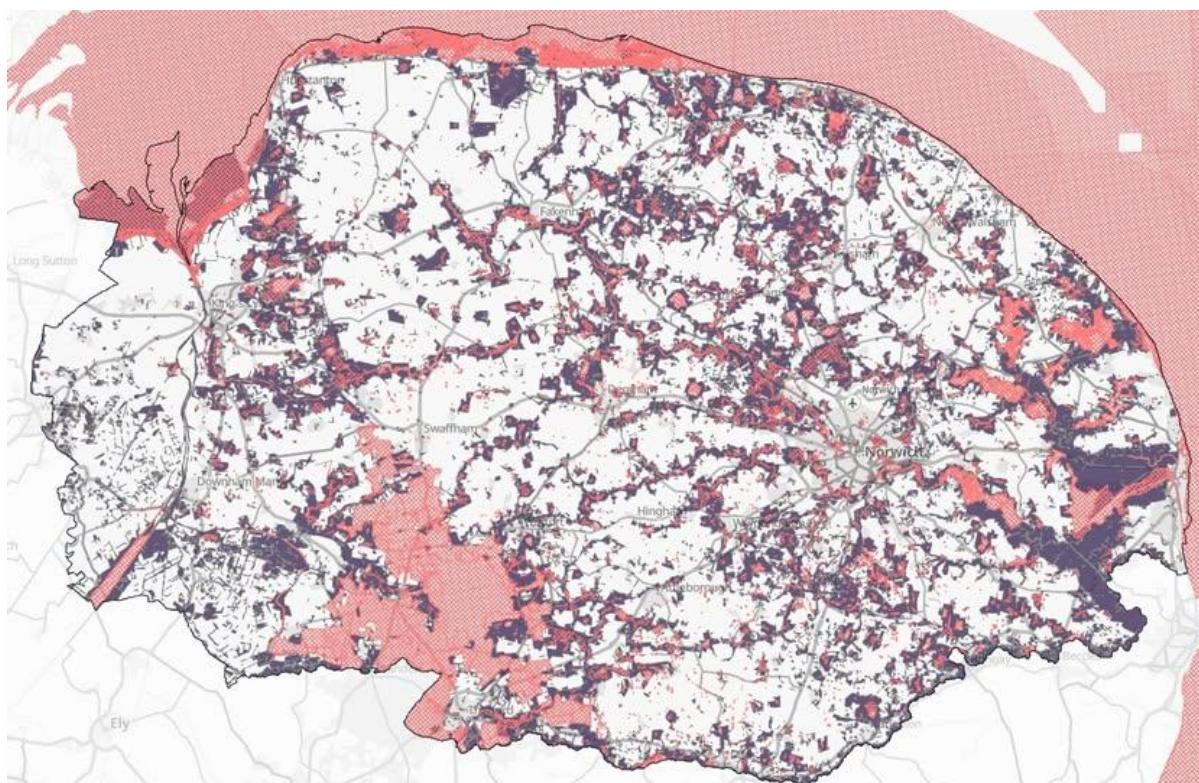
Rural Grass cutting

- This year we have received additional funding in order to undertake an additional cut.
- So, this year we will be undertaking 3 rural cuts on A&B class roads, 2 rural cuts C&U class roads + a visibility cut.
- The first rural cut on all roads started on 7 April and will broadly be completed now.
- The remaining 2 cuts will be scheduled based on growth experienced in the summer period.
- Since April last year, we've been collaborating with mobile analysts Streetwave by using devices in some waste collection vehicles to survey the quality of mobile network coverage from the four main UK providers: EE, O2, Three and Vodafone.

Bus checking

An alternative to our local bus app

Bustimes.org



 Have you seen our Local Habitat Map?

We want to know what we what you think it should contain!

Signed:

Date:

Our consultation that is currently running seeks public input on Norfolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). 🐦

The strategy aims to:

🌳 restore and enhance nature.

🌿 map areas of potential importance for nature and the actions that could achieve this.

🌸 reflect the needs and views of local communities, stakeholders, and experts.

To take part and find out more visit https://orlo.uk/LocalNatureRecoveryStrategy_Znu00

FTTP

The new utility. It has been an up and down ride getting rural fibre networks! At least 4 firms around my division.

We are now facing the roll out, causing a lot of TROs.

Hopefully by end of Spring to Early Summer the roll to residents will begin.

These themes will continue into the new year

Mobile signals

- Since April last year, we've been collaborating with mobile analysts Streetwave by using devices in some waste collection vehicles to survey the quality of mobile network coverage from the four main UK providers: EE, O2, Three and Vodafone.
- This has given us some excellent data, helping to build a good picture of coverage right across the county, but we can make this even more accurate by hearing about your experience with mobile coverage in Norfolk.
- So next time you're at home and get frustrated that your local chippy can't hear your takeaway order, or your phone cuts out on what should have been a nice conversation with a friend, take some time to complete our anonymous [mobile experience form](#).
- You can read more about the project and visit our mobile coverage checker to see which operator offers the best service in your area by [clicking here for the project's webpage](#).

National Emergency Alert test to be held on 7 September

The Government will send a test Emergency Alert to mobile phones across the UK at around 15:00 on Sunday 7 September 2025. During the test, mobile phones will vibrate and make a loud siren sound for roughly ten seconds, even if they are set to silent. A message will also appear on phone screens, making it clear the alert is only a test. An FAQ site related to the test has also been published: [Emergency Alert Test: Frequently Asked Questions - GOV.UK](#).

- Scams
- Cold Calling Alert - Telephone cold calls regarding 'loft insulation'
- Cold Calling Alert - Doorstep Cold Callers offering roof cleaning
- Cold Calling Alert - Further reports of doorstep Cold Callers offering to purchase gold
- Scam Alert - Emails claiming 'your iCloud storage is full'
- News Alert - Protect your online accounts
- Information Alert - Be aware of misleading adverts for eVisa
- Scam Alert - Be aware for fake QR codes
- Scam Alert - Online surveys to receive high value items
- Rogue Trader Alert - Doorstep cold callers offering to clean driveways

Signed:

Date:

- **Scam Alert - Telephone cold calls claiming to be from 'the council disrepair team'**
- **Cold Calling Alert - Telephone cold calls asking about Life Insurance**
- **Scam Alert - Telephone cold calls claiming to be 'bank security department'**
- **Rogue Trader Alert - Doorstep cold callers offering to lay gravel**
- **Cold Calling Alert - Doorstep cold callers offering roofing work**
- **Avian Influenza confirmed, and controls put in place at a premises near Wymondham, Norfolk**
- **Rogue Trader Alert - Doorstep cold callers offering house and garden maintenance**
- **Cold Calling Alert - Doorstep cold callers offering exterior cleaning**
- **Scam Alert - Criminals targeting grieving families with online scams**
- **Information Alert - Emails claiming 'your pet's microchip registration has expired'**
- **News Alert - FSA Food Alert for Action: Jolly Rancher products by The Hershey Company**
- **Scam Alert - Emails claiming to be from 'M&S'**
- **Scam Alert - Text messages claiming to be from DWP**
- **Scam Alert – 'Council tax payment that appears outstanding' emails**
- **Rogue Trader Alert – Doorstep Cold Callers offering tree and garden work**
- **Scam Alert – Fake Parking Charge Notice text messages**
- **Rogue Trader Alert – Doorstep Cold Caller offering mattresses**
- **Cold Calling Alert – Cold calls regarding spray foam insulation removal**
- **Scam Alert – Investment Scams**
- **Cold Calling Alert – Doorstep Cold Callers offering exterior cleaning**
- **Text messages claiming to be from DWP**
- **Scam Alert - Telephone cold calls offering to stop telephone cold calls**
- **News Alert - FSA Food Alert for Action: 'Neosis Schokolade Love of Dubai chocolate'**
- **Rogue Trader Alert - Doorstep Cold Callers offering tree and garden work**
- **Scam Alert - Fake DVLA emails**

Signed:

Date: