

Trowse with Newton



Parish Council News

March/April 2025

Welcome to the Parish Council's News Letter. We aim to give up to date information to parishioners about what is going on in the village and beyond, how to get involved and where to go for advice.

Devolution and You

Over recent weeks/months you may have heard the word devolution a lot. In December 2024 the government sent out a Devolution White Paper which sets out the plans to move power away from Westminster to local communities. This will mean the establishment of a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) for Norfolk and Suffolk. Having a local MCCA should give the region back control over things like, transport and local infrastructure, skills and employment support, housing and strategic planning, economic development and regeneration, environment and climate change, health, wellbeing and public service reform and public safety. Money will be received in the form of an integrated settlement which will allow for Mayors to direct funds to the above services, independent from central government.

Norfolk County Council are favouring the one or two unitary authorities model but some other District Councils are unable to agree at this stage to one, two or three unitary councils. Norwich City Council would like to create their own unitary authority but currently don't have the required minimum population of 500,000 residents and there have been talks of expanding this to create a Greater Norwich Council which might subsume Trowse, Cringleford, Costessey, Hethersett, Wymondham, Hellesdon and Spixworth to make up the numbers. Obviously this is something that we will be watching very closely and we are already working with other Parish Councils to discuss this.

In terms of the financial benefits an interim report suggest that optimal savings can be made with the single unitary authority, less so with a two unitary system, but having three unitary councils (as suggested by Norwich City Council) will end up costing more and could unnecessarily double up on services.

However, before any decision to proceed can be made it is important that government get the views from those who live and work in the area. This is done in the form of a public consultation and we urge you to look through this and make your representations. The more people respond the more information is going to be made available to the legislators. If you have views and opinions about the creation of Unitary Councils and a MCCA it is vital that you share these through the Consultation.

The below QR code will take you to the link for the consultation. Our website has the Interim Report as sent out by Norfolk County Council. This report outlines the pros and cons of 1, 2 or 3 Unitary Authorities. The consultation runs until 13th April.



HAVE YOUR SAY



PC Theft

As some of you may already know, sadly the Council's lock up was broken into at the beginning of March. This meant that we have lost all of the grounds keeping equipment that we had purchased over the last 18 months or so. This included mowers, a strimmer and a brush cutter. It seems that there is currently a spate of these thefts with Saxlingham Pavillion and Catton Park being targeted too.

With that and the repeated attempts to get into the village shop we are urging you to be vigilant. If you see any thing suspicious or are concerned please call 111.



Allotment holders please don't store anything of value on your plots.

Biodiversity Corner

The village's ongoing biodiversity work continues. Recently we had a good turn out to help with the preparation of the Common for the wildflowers. Thank you to all those who turned up to help and make use of the Wheelbarrow Café. It was a beautifully sunny weekend when volunteers grabbed their spades and pitched in.



Over the coming weeks the ongoing works at the cemetery will continue with the planting of some shrubs on the roundabout area and the clearing of the pathways. The shrubs chosen will promote pollinators.

The PC are also waiting to have a tree and bat survey done for the village. The tree survey is needed to ensure that our trees are safe and stable and this allows us to

complete any remedial works necessary to make that so. The bat survey will determine how many and what species of bats we have. We already have bat boxes in the Cemetery and in Sparkes Wood at the top of the allotments, but it will be good to know if these are utilised and in the correct place. These surveys will take place in May.

Conversations with Highways

Rarely is the topic of speeding far from the thoughts of the Parish Council and we know that it is a big concern for a lot of our residents. You may have spotted that the works to extend the footpath around the Common have begun and during a site meeting Council Chair Heather Bowers and the Clerk, Kate Leggett got the chance to talk directly to Gary Overland who is responsible for Norfolk Highways and our County Councillor Vic Thomson.

We discussed the many issues of Whitlingham and White Horse Lanes, and expressed some of our concerns. We hope we have come up with some solutions. We will be looking to paint some 20mph roundels on the road at the start of Whitlingham Lane, reminding drivers that they are still in a 20mph zone. We will also be putting some additional 20mph repeater signs along that stretch.

With regards to White Horse Lane we discussed speed mitigation measures such as speed bumps and chicanes but it was explained that these cause problems of their own, such as: speeding between bumps/chicanes in a rush to beat the oncoming traffic and the fact that some dwellings on White Horse Lane are very close to the road the additional vibrations of cars slowing up and pulling away again can cause footings damage. Unfortunately we were told that an "accident waiting to happen" isn't actually an accident and until it becomes an obvious accident black spot, additional measures will not be taken.

On a more positive note we may soon be able to do Speedwatch in the 20mph zones: something that we are currently not permitted to do. We await more info on this.

Summer Vibes

The Parish Council are looking to hold another event this summer, showcasing some of our local talents. We would like to put on a craft and music fayre allowing local artists, both musical and crafting to show some of their wares. The event will be on Saturday 2nd August on the Common and if anyone would like a craft stall, or to perform please do get in touch with Kate in the office.

Given the uncertainty of the great British weather it is hoped that at least some of the event can be held under marquees and that there will be a good selection of traders and musicians. It would be lovely to have as many locals involved as possible, so even if you're a hobby crafter or emerging musician, we'd still like to hear from you. We did have Ed Sherran turn up one year, and maybe you're the next Ed!



"Is there anybody there?"

If you would like to get in touch with the Parish Council you can do so by emailing: trowsepc@outlook.com or calling 07899 798853.

Details of meeting dates etc are on our website: trowseparishcouncil@norfolkparishes.gov.uk

We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate feedback.