South Norfolk House:
We have finally been able to sell South Norfolk House, the old council office in Long Stratton, unfortunately this was delayed by a few years.

The sale, which is conditional on planning consent, will be for a minimum of 60 high-quality 100% affordable homes.

Electrical waste



Good news! Electrical waste and battery collections will resume at all Norfolk Recycling Centres from Monday 13 July.
Thank you for your patience while new arrangements have been put in place.
I am pleased to inform you that **the second round of the Nature Conservation Fund launches today, Monday 20th July, at 10:00**.

The Nature Conservation Fund offers grants of up to £10,000 per project to support communities in the South Norfolk district to develop and enhance biodiversity and local greenspaces. Applicants can include Town and Parish Councils, community groups, charities, and schools in South Norfolk. The second round is very similar to the first, however now includes funding for projects that help to improve air quality by planting trees in specific places (guidance provided by the Environmental Protection team). We have also added criteria to prioritise projects that fall within LNRS zones, and those that have considered sustainable watering solutions.

We will be hosting a workshop for prospective applicants to find out more about the Fund and how to apply on Tuesday 11th August (10:00-12:30) at the Horizon Centre (booking required).

The application form, guidance and workshop registration link can be found on the website, which will go live at 10:00: Nature Conservation Fund | Broadland and South Norfolk

The **closing date for applications is Friday 18th September 2026**, and projects must be delivered by 31st March 2027.

Summer Activities at Norwich Castle



Welcome to the Court of King Henry I! 👑

This summer, step into Norwich Castle and discover what it takes to live, work and play in a royal palace:

⚔️ Meet a knight and their squire to explore medieval arms and armour
🕊️ Learn about the noble art of falconry with Queen Adeliza and make your own flappy falcon to take home
🍗 Help the castle steward prepare for a grand feast
📜 Follow our object trail through the Gallery of Medieval Life

Staff-led activities run from Saturday 18 July to Wednesday 2 September, 10am–3pm, except Sundays. On Sundays, enjoy self-led activities from 10am–5pm

Food Waste:



We will be introducing a new **free weekly food waste collection service** for households in South Norfolk.
Food waste collections will **start to roll out in phases from July 2026**, with **all South Norfolk households included by the end of September 2026.**
Before your collection starts:

- Around 6 weeks before your service begins, you will receive a leaflet confirming your exact start date.
- Your kitchen caddy, outdoor food waste bin and liners will be delivered 1–3 weeks before your service begins.

Once the service starts in your area, your food waste will be **collected weekly**, on **the same day as your rubbish or recycling**, but by a **separate vehicle**.

You can now enter your postcode to find out when your food waste collection will start, if you follow the below link. Surlingham in Phase 2

You can find out more on our website:
https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/food-waste-collections/south-norfolk-food-waste-collections

South Norfolk and Broadland Community Links Network:

South Norfolk and Broadland (SNAB) Community Links is a network established in the South Norfolk and Broadland districts.

It is designed to bring together individuals who serve as community leaders, volunteers, or are affiliated with voluntary groups and organisations operating within these districts.

The primary goal of SNAB Community Links is to foster communication, collaboration, and support within the voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) sector to help create thriving communities in the region.

The network is led by the Communities Team at the Council, and provides a platform for members to share updates, discuss challenges, and work together to find solutions that benefit the VCSE sector and the broader community.

By participating in SNAB Community Links, individuals and organisations can contribute to the development and well-being of their communities through collaboration, mutual support, and shared resources.

Membership is open to anyone who is part of a voluntary, community, or social enterprise sector group or organization within South Norfolk and Broadland districts.

This includes a wide range of groups, from traditional organizations like Girl Guides and Rotary Clubs to newer initiatives like Community Fridges and Men's Sheds.

Additionally, individuals who are interested in learning more about the VCSE sector in the area and want to explore ways to get involved are also welcome to join.

Community Links Network QU April 26'

Support for community groups | Broadland and South Norfolk

Community Police Meeting:

The next neighbourhood policing meeting will be in July:

Sun 19 July 2026 6:30PM - 7:30PM

It will be a hybrid meeting - In person: Thurlton Village Hall, Village Hall, Beccles Rd, Norwich NR14 6RJ
Online: Email SNTSouthNorfolk@norfolk.police.uk for a meeting link.

Solar Together Norfolk

Broadland District and South Norfolk Councils have partnered with iChoosr Ltd, who are independent experts in group-buying, bringing Solar Together to Norfolk.

- If you live in Broadland, register for free here
- If you live in South Norfolk, register for free here

Buying solar panels and battery storage made easy
Solar Together Norfolk is an innovative scheme offering high-quality solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage. It is a group-buying scheme, which brings households together to get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price, helping you through the process and keeping you informed at every stage.
Do you already have solar panels installed? You can also register to have battery storage added to your existing solar panels to maximise the benefits of your system.
How does it work?
Stage 1. Registration: You can register for free and without obligation. To register, you simply provide details about your roof, such as its size and orientation.
Stage 2. Auction: A reverse auction will be held where our pre-vetted solar installers will submit bids for the work. The more people that register, the better the deal should be for each household. The installer with the most competitive package will win the auction.
Stage 3. Personalised recommendation: You will be emailed a personal recommendation for you home, based on the details you provided during registration. This includes the costs and specification for a complete solar panel installation.
Stage 4. You decide: The decision is then yours whether you want to accept your recommendation. There is no obligation to continue. We will let you know how long you have to accept your recommendation and update you before the scheme closes.
Stage 5. Installation: If you accept, the winning installer will contact you to survey your roof and set an installation date.
Check out Solar Together's frequently asked questions

Upcoming Changes to Planning Decision-Making:

I mentioned at your last meeting we had received a consultation regarding proposed changes.

The Government has recently published draft new national guidance that will significantly change how planning applications are determined.

The key change is the introduction of a **National Scheme of Delegation**, which means that most applications will be decided by professional planning officers, with planning committees focusing only on the most significant or complex cases. See the draft national guidance here: Planning Committees and the National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions: Draft guidance for local planning authorities in England - GOV.UK

Under the new system:

- Routine applications (such as householder proposals and small developments) will not and cannot come to committee. There will be no right of member call in.
- Only applications that meet a defined "gateway test" - for example due to economic, social or environmental significance AND the nominated officer and member (the chair of the committee) agree they should be referred- can be referred to committee, but they should be presumed to be delegated unless they meet these criteria.
- Planning committees will therefore concentrate on major, strategic or genuinely contentious proposals.

This represents a shift in the role of members in planning decision-making, with fewer applications being determined at committee, but a stronger focus on the most important cases.

The changes are expected to come into force on **31 October 2026**.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):

When you see solar you will see BESS and we are getting more of both.

I attended a Fire and Rescue training session about BESS and was interested to hear that BESS was now one of their lesser problems. New batteries, new cabinets, new controls.
What was shocking was the danger of the smaller lithium iron batteries in daily use, see fire in our depot caused by a LI battery in general waste!

Putting small batteries, vapes, power tool batteries, phone, tablets, torches, ear buds, fans etc in black bin
Buying cheap batteries and chargers for scooters and bikes
Charging indoors at critical points

Hot water bottle safety: Preventing burns and scalds

It's a common heatwave hack we see online. To freeze a hot water bottle to keep you cool in the warm weather.
But the rubber in hot water bottles can degrade if you freeze them, making it unsafe to use with hot water later.
So, if you freeze a hot water bottle this summer, please don't use it again in the colder months

Heat warning

Water, drowning
Fire, leaving glass on floor
Personal, heat stroke

Safety survey



South Norfolk in Bloom
Community groups and parish councils can apply for funding to use on planting projects, from trees and orchards to bedding, wildflowers, bulbs and biodiversity projects.

Within each parish the top funding available is £1 per person in the parish. So if the village has 200 people in it, £200 is available to match their own £200 spent. Equally for a large town with 10,000 people in it, there is £10,000 available – which can be split across multiple community groups, schools, parish council etc.

Further info and application here: South Norfolk in Bloom fund | Broadland and South Norfolk

Press release with some project examples here: In Bloom funding returns after popular first round | Broadland and South Norfolk

A deadline in November has been given on the page, but applications will be assessed on a rolling basis so there is no need to wait until the deadline for the grant to be paid out.

LGR:

SNC have decided to go ahead with a legal challenge against the Government's decision for a three unitary model. NCC and others around Country have done the same.

It was in the press, but in case you didn't see it, it has been revealed that Whitehall officials advised that Norfolk's councils should be replaced by just one unitary council when they are abolished in 2028.

The one unitary proposal meets all the criteria and does so more strongly than the two or the three unitary proposals in relation to its geography, financial resilience, and service delivery.

But, despite that, Labour's local government secretary Steve Reed MP proposed a three unitary model.

The council submitted a protective claim to Government on Friday.

Lots of other unknowns have now entered?
- Potential prime minister
  - Devolution
- Mayor
- JR success