

Liberal Democrat County Councillors Report for North Walsham East Division

06th of September 2025

What's Going on at the County Council?

Your chance to give your views on Norfolk's Recycling Centres

The county council has launched their annual survey for Norfolk's 19 recycling centres.

Last year, the centres processed over 69,000 tonnes of household waste, with more than 73% successfully diverted from general waste disposal.

The survey, is a chance for residents to share their experiences, suggest improvements, and help shape the future of the service. It is open until Wednesday 17 September and takes just a few minutes to complete.

How you can help

- Share the link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/RecyclingCentreSurvey2025/>
- Look out for social media posts across [Norfolk CC Facebook](#) and [Next-door](#) and share them on your own pages
- Signpost to more information about locations, opening hours and accepted items: www.norfolk.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling

Household hazardous waste days - reminder

Norfolk County Council has announced a series of household hazardous waste days (HHWDs) this autumn, offering residents the opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted hazardous materials at seven recycling centres across the county.

The autumn HHWDs will take place on the following dates:

- Norwich South – Friday 3 & Saturday 4 October
- King's Lynn – Friday 10 & Saturday 11 October
- Caister – Friday 24 & Saturday 25 October
- Dereham – Friday 31 October & Saturday 1 November
- Thetford – Friday 7 & Saturday 8 November
- Hempton – Friday 21 & Saturday 22 November
- Norwich North – Friday 28 & Saturday 29 November

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Norfolk Community Fund

Norfolk County Council has launched a new fund called the Norfolk Community Fund. Each Norfolk County Councillor has £5,000 to support community groups in their division.

Local groups can apply for grants of £200 to £2,500.

To help boost the overall fund, and to encourage and support groups to harness community funding power:

- For funding bids of £500 or over, groups will need to match fund 50%
- We will support groups to do this through the Crowdfunding platform, which we have already successfully used in the County Council's Growth and Investment service, and gives a simple route for groups to fundraise
- For projects under £500, there will be no match-funding requirement – but groups will have the option to still do that if they wish, to help increase the total amount of funding

Projects must clearly benefit the local community within the local area. They should aim to bring people together, celebrate local culture, and improve the overall quality of life in Norfolk. Below are the themes for the funding along with some examples of what the funding can go towards:

- **Ageing well:** Activities supporting the well-being of older adults, such as improvements to community centres or village halls, and projects for the well-being of older people.
- **Youth focus:** Engaging young people in meaningful and fun activities, including starting local groups, and buying play and exercise equipment for community use.
- **Green and clean:** Promoting environmental awareness and sustainability through local training schemes, childcare schemes, and planning and publishing village walks.
- **Come together:** Bringing diverse groups together to celebrate community and culture with public events, festivals, exhibitions, and tourist information leaflets.
- **Active living:** Supporting sports and physical activities for all ages, such as buying play and exercise equipment for community use.
- **Creative connections:** Engaging arts and cultural projects that unite people, including bringing people together to build community through public events, festivals, and exhibitions.

Local community groups should contact me in my role as their local councillor and explain their projects.

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Local Members Fund

The LMF can be spent on a wide variety of highway and environmental related aspects, up to a total combined value of £11,000 each year. The LMF is capital so there needs to be an asset, or an extension of life for an existing asset as a result of the funding.

Typical uses could include:

- Advisory signs such as 'Unsuitable for HGV's' and advisory speed limits i.e. 20mph signs outside schools, would be possible.
- Capital measures to encourage more active travel (walking and cycling), including enhancement of the public rights of way (PRoW) network including footways, footpaths, bridle ways, restricted byways, permissive paths. This could include small footway extensions and modifications to enable greater access.
- More significant work to infrastructure and surfacing improvements on PRoW to increase and promote greater access. This could include replacement of stiles with gates and improved signage, information boards and creative wayfinding.
- Minor drainage works.
- New non-regulatory signs and replacement of existing signs and road markings. This includes new road markings such as "SLOW" markings.
- Minor traffic management projects including Traffic Regulation Order related works. However, it should be noted that these works can typically cost up to £9,000 each and may be difficult to deliver within a 12-month timescale.
- Day rates for contractors to carry out additional capital maintenance to areas of the highways that a Local Member would like improved.
- Other highway improvements – improved visibility splays, junction improvements, kerbing, work in conservation areas.
- Capital grants to Town or Parish Councils for highway maintenance related equipment for grass cutting including for roadside nature reserves or footway gritting equipment.
- A grant towards Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points. The LMF can be used to pay for purchase and installation costs only, so is best suited to community facilities such as village or town halls etc. The applicant (typically a Town or Parish Council) would need to lead on procurement, supply & installation. The LMF can then be used to offset these costs. In addition, the County Council would not be responsible for future maintenance costs.
- A grant towards community tree planting to support Norfolk's Environmental Policy. This could include contributions towards tree packs as part of "1 Million Trees for Norfolk". The LMF can be used to pay for purchase and planting costs only, so is best suited to community facilities that can be planted off highway land. The applicant

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(typically a Town or Parish Council) would need to lead on purchase, supply & planting. Alternatively Community groups, town and parish councils or individuals who can prove a 'community benefit', are able to approach their Local Member to see whether they would be willing to refund the some or all of the 50% cost of the tree packs available through the county council (offer is seasonal, see website for details) . Where trees are proposed on highway land, these would need to be agreed with the local Highways team to prevent future maintenance issues. Any invoices requiring payment should be sent via the Asset, Programmes and Funding Team so that the Members allocated fund can be debited.

- Wildlife friendly measures for amenity and biodiversity gain, including greenspace improvements. Particularly for priority habitats and species like bats and newts linked to Norfolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Funding is for capital implementation costs only but could include equipment for volunteers/local community to use to manage their local biodiversity, wildlife flower seed/plants, bat/bird boxes or a contract to create new ponds. Ongoing maintenance costs would need to be agreed by third parties.
- A grant towards flood signs fixed (drop down) 'Flood' or 'Road Ahead Closed' signs at specific agreed sites on unclassified and C roads only. Once installed these signs would be dropped down by identified local representatives to show the sign face under a Memorandum of Understanding.
- A grant towards lightweight water and flood diversion barriers for community use, procured, managed and maintained by local Parish/Town Councils. The LMF can then be used to offset the purchase costs.
- Access improvements to the PRoW network (including footways, footpaths, bridal ways, restricted byways, permissive paths) This could include improvements to surfacing, ramps, steps, handrails, accessible gates, seating. Improvements PRoW network particularly, where appropriate to provide barrier free, all abilities access.
- A grant towards the purchase of grit bins to be placed on the public highway. All requests will be considered by the local Highway Engineer, in line with current assessment guidelines, before approval for purchase. Once approved, the local Highway Engineer will arrange for them to be purchased and sited. The grit bins will be owned by NCC and filled/replenished free of charge in line with existing arrangements for all other bins located on the public highway (usually twice per winter season, in November/December and then again after Christmas depending on the weather) and agreed by Assistant Director Highways). Any maintenance, repair and replacements costs will be met by the Highways Winter Budget.

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Dilham

- I have written to our highways engineer to urge him to consider improved speed reduction signage for the village.
- Despite the parish council and I asking that Dilham becomes a 20 mph village, Highways remains reluctant.
- Unresolved issues from last report:
 - We are still awaiting confirmation of the date that the brown tourist signs advertising the Worsted Park venue to be repositioned.

Happisburgh

- A complaint has been received about mud on Lighthouse Lane, specifically following rainfall leading the verge edges to spill onto the road. North Norfolk District Council cleansing team have been contacted to see if they can help through road sweeping. This has now been escalated to Cabinet Member, who will update.
- Further complaints have been raised about the North Walsham Road development, and these have been forwarded on to the North Norfolk District Council Planning Enforcement team.
- I have received one application from the parish for my Norfolk Community Fund Budget.
- Unresolved issues from last report:
 - My Local Member Fund will be used to purchase new safety signs for Happisburgh/Walcott crossroads, we are waiting for installation.

Honing

- No parish specific report

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North Walsham

- The long-awaited repairs to the soakaway and pavement at Litester Close/Spencer Avenue began at the end of August.
- The crossing on Vicarage St has now been repainted.
- We have received no further update on the Salvation Army's decision to transfer Furze Hill to an alternative provider, following meeting with them.
- I have received a total of three applications from the parish for my Norfolk Community Fund Budget.
- Complaints have been raised over the maintenance of Spa Common, I have contacted NNDC regarding this, and inspection has been carried out and I am awaiting confirmation of action to be taken.
- Residents on Park Avenue have contacted me regarding concerns of the health of a tree bordering their properties. Flagship have been out to inspect and confirm that this tree will be felled within 18 months.
- I have contacted officers again about the sinking area on Marshgate. Officers have again written to Anglian Water to ascertain a date for work to commence.
- After 9 months, following an Anglian Water leak, repairs have been undertaken to a pavement on Bradfield Road.
- Unresolved issues from last report:
 - Following conversations with Sainsbury's head office the lights that line the Vicarage St carpark to Sainsbury's path are being repaired.
 - Discussions have been held for solutions to the issue of drivers parking over the Norwich Rd 'keep clear' markings by Avenue Road, the safety team will be inspecting the site.
 - The consultation regarding the land required to undertake the Lynfield estate drainage, received no comments and an instruction has been given to the legal team to move to the next stage of purchasing.
 - After 4 years, Taylor Wimpey have responded to the issue of the buildup on the verge on Bacton Rd causing fences to rot. During this time, I have only received placeholder emails from the legal team. This is now in the investigation stage.

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Walcott

- Unresolved issues from last report:
 - My Local Member Fund will be used to purchase new safety signs for Happisburgh/Walcott crossroads.
 - Highways are awaiting delivery of the 'gate' signs, installation dates will be given when these are received.

Witton and Ridlington

- No parish specific report

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