

Hemsby Parish Council



Parish Office, The Pavilion,
Waters Lane, Hemsby,
Great Yarmouth
Norfolk
NR29 4NH

All correspondence please to:
The Parish Clerk
Mrs K Wilton Tel 01493 719235
Email: hemsbypc@outlook.com

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Monday 20th May 2024 at 7pm at The Pavilion, Waters Lane, Hemsby.

Present : Cllr Kyriacou, Cllr Bowgen, Cllr Kern, Cllr Stocker, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Cooper & Cllr Chilvers.
Apology received from Cllr S Bensly. No apology from GYBC Galer. One Member of the public Simon Measure – Save Hemsby Coastline & NCC/GYBC Cllr James Bensly.

MINUTES

1. The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone that attended.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Council meeting held on 15th May 2023 were agreed & signed by Cllr Kyriacou.

3. ANNUAL REPORTS

1. GYBC Councillors (James Bensly & Noel Galer report's - Attached. NCC Cllr Bensly - report attached.
2. Chair's report - attached
3. St Marys Church – report attached
4. Village School - no report submitted
5. Village Hall Committee – no report submitted
6. Sports & Social Club Committee – lots of charity work this year, donated funds to the church tower, Norfolk & Waveney MIND, they are currently raising funds for Centre 81. 1500-1600 members.
7. Football Club – Busy year this year, change in managers, sport tours event was well attended over 2000 people. Looking to invest in new equipment for youth football & trying to attract new children. AGM in the next few weeks. Cllr Bennett remarked that it was a credit to the Hemsby Football club.
8. Poor's Trust – no report submitted
9. Save Hemsby Coastline – Simon Measures was present, he re-capped on his report, attached.
10. Hemsby Lifeboat- report attached
11. Hemsby Friendship Group – report attached
12. Hemsby Events Group – no report submitted
13. Indoor Bowls Group – no report submitted
14. Hemsby Hedgehogs - no report submitted
15. Hemsby Brownies – no report submitted
16. Hemsby Medical Practice – no report submitted
17. Methodist Church – no report submitted

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Meeting ended 19:26

Next Annual Meeting of the Parish May 2025.

Draft

Chairmans Report 2023-24 – Keith Kyriacou

It has been another interesting year in my role as Chairman working alongside Kerrie our Clerk, Kerrie thank you for all that you do for this Parish. I am passionate about Hemsby, but I do feel that we are knocked too much by people who blame us for every little thing that is out of our hands, with big cuts in funding by the Borough Council. We have been to lots of meetings this year about the beach, again no funding for the sea defences because the sums don't add up. The toilets down Beach Road, Hemsby closed by the Borough Council due to lack of funding.

We have spent money to clean the hard court up, so hopefully the village will use it & it will bring us some revenue in. We desperately need our flower beds in the village tidied up, we used to have Hemsby in Bloom but alas this has not been carried on. Thank you to Tony for keeping on top of the boat planter outside the Village Hall & the new volunteer who has taken on the boat planter at Newport junction. We have had other areas of the village cleaned & tidied by the Community Payback team. So where are these people in our village to join in our groups including the Parish Council, so I put it out there to the village, come & join in with things, we have 3500 living here now. Lets be positive about Hemsby.

Hemsby Lifeboat Annual Report For Hemsby Parish Council

2023 / 24 has been a challenging year for the Lifeboat service, with ongoing issues with beach erosion, particularly the impact on the service's ability to launch the ILB (Inshore Lifeboat) consistently. During this period, we have maintained our Norfolk Broads coverage, serving approximately 120 miles of the Broads and rivers in Norfolk.

During the period, our assistance was requested 47 times by the Coastguard, 43 of which were for the Broads, assisting members of the public in harm's way.

We have seen a reduction in volunteers but have maintained a working crew and our unblemished record of attending all Coastguard requests for assistance. To counter this crew shortage, we have been actively recruiting locally, across all service areas.

We have continued to collaborate with Save Hemsby Coastline, specifically regarding the Gap area, and have also been collaborating with Crown Estates to assist where we can. Crew members have also been active in clearing debris from the beach due to the aforementioned erosion.

Works on the repair to the Concrete Pad due to damage caused by the recent works sponsored by the CPE have been delayed due to contractual issues, but this project continues to progress, albeit slowly.

Financially, we continue to operate effectively and have reserves to ensure the service can meet all its obligations as they fall due. In addition, we have earmarked funds for future spending and the possibility of the need for relocation.

Our shop is reopening for Easter, and we have invested in upgraded stock-control systems to complement the existing EPOS systems. This year, we will again focus on our major fundraising events, Lifeboat Day and Herring Day in August. We have also agreed

to support Hemsby Events with their July project. This year, we will not be running the November fireworks event, a commercial decision the board of trustees made.

Preparations continue for the season ahead, and our crew is being tested to ensure skills are maintained at the highest level.

Village Hall.

We welcome new members to join us - please phone Christine on 01493 730420 if you wish to come.

We have speakers on a wide range of topics, coach outings throughout the year - coffee - tea - biscuit and cake.

We play Hoi Hoi and have quizzes organised by members.

Last year we went to Sheringham - Wells and Hinderingham for afternoon tea. - Snape Malting, and Thorpness - Holt and Holt garden centre.

This year we are going to Mannington Estate - Sandringham flower show in July - other trips to be decided on.

We meet at St Marys Room in Hensby Village Hall 2.00^{PM} - 4.00^{PM} on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month.

A very Big Thankyou to Hensby Parish Council for their support and donations, last year for the coach to Wells and Hinderingham.

Also this year for their donation towards the cost of the coach to go to Sandringham Flower Show in July.

St. Mary the Virgin Church, Hemsby

We are still in an Interregnum although the position is being advertised.

SERVICES:

Despite this all services are continuing as normal. Our congregation is growing slightly on a weekly basis but has drawn large numbers on special services in particular:

Remembrance Day with over 100 people

And Easter day 2024 with over 90 people

Children are especially welcome and invited to come round the high altar during the Eucharist so that they can see what is happening.

Hemsby school held special services in the Church, Harvest, Christingle and Christmas. They also held their own service for Armistice at the War Memorial.

Christmas and Easter has been very well supported with families attending the Christmas Crib service.

We have celebrated:

1 wedding

2 Baptisms

8 funeral services

2024 has already seen an increase of people wanting to hold their special rites with us.

The church is open for private prayer from 10 am - 6 pm (until dusk in winter) also to allow the collection of items for the local food bank initially The Salvation Army and with effect from October 2023 the food bank at Martham

FUND RAISING

Fund Raising has been very well supported:

Coffee mornings, Coronation, Easter Egg, Plants, Christmas

Fish and Chip supper

Santa paws an event with Hemsby Events Committee which used the Barn Room and the Church to include a 'Teddy' zip wire!

100 club thrives.

Collection of wastepaper has restarted

EVENTS;

A Christmas lunch was held at The Bell,

Evening Carols at The Bell

and 2 concerts by St Mary's Singers.

There was also a village Garage Sale during the year with donations to the Tower Fund.

The Church took part in the Annual Ride and Stride event organised by the Norfolk Churches Trust.

A lunch to celebrate the Patronal Festival in September was held at The Boat House.

TOWER RESTORATION:

After 8 years of fundraising and obtaining grant funding, work commenced on restoring the Church Tower and repairing the leaking tower roof on 31st July 2023 and was completed on schedule at the end of November 2023.

It was also decided to restore the clock face while the scaffolding allowed easy access and this was funded by a generous donation from Hemsby Sports and Social Club as well as the 'In Memory Fund'.

CHARITABLE GIVING

Donations have been made to Parkinsons UK, Morocco Earthquake appeal, Turkey and Syria Earthquake appeal as well as the Norfolk Churches Trust and The Children's Society.

Harvest produce and groceries were sent to The Coach House and the Martham Food Bank respectively.

NEW INITIATIVES:

A Quarterly free Newsletter has replaced the Parish magazine due to lack of interest in sending articles. This seems to be going well. Copies are at the back of church.

Healing Service – Our healing service, every 4th Sunday of the month, is well attended.

A card reader has been installed in church to help people who no longer have cash but are willing to donate to church funds.

Teams from the Ministry of Justice has tidied the church grounds and have begun to decorate the Barn Room. Their hard work has been very gratefully received.

A Community fridge run by Great Yarmouth Borough Council is being hosted in the Barn Room.

IN CONCLUSION:

The church is growing, we are linking more with the local community, especially The Social Club and Hemsby Events Committee.

We are a Happy Place!

In April, Great Yarmouth Borough Council successfully completed the launch of a new company to deliver a wide range of services for residents.

The move sees a joint venture between Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Norse Commercial Services - which has been running since 2003 - replaced by what is known as a Local Authority Trading Company called Great Yarmouth Services Limited Ltd (GYS).

GYS will be responsible for a number of services the council provides, including refuse collection and recycling, street cleaning, public toilet cleaning and maintenance, buildings cleaning, grounds maintenance services, vehicle maintenance, arboriculture, leisure, burial services and pest control.

Residents will not notice any disruption and we are optimistic the move gives us the opportunity to improve the quality of the services we provide for people.

GYS is wholly owned by the council and staff have transferred from the previous business into the new company which was created after the council took a decision in December 2021 not to renew its existing arrangements with Norse.

The transfer of staff involved detailed consultation over the past few months with employees and trade unions. And, in agreement with unions, all terms and conditions of employment are protected at the point of transfer and existing rates of pay, sick pay, annual leave and continuity of service all continue and will be subject to a review within the first six months of operation, existing pension membership for all staff continues.

Early in 2023, Great Yarmouth Borough Council formally adopted its Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) following a public consultation.

The new document is a planning framework that provides guidance for developers, architects and planners on how to incorporate open space into their developments. This includes the creation of new parks, green spaces and other public areas, as well as the protection of existing open spaces.

There is also guidance around how to ensure that open spaces are well managed and maintained. And there is a principle that open spaces are designed to ensure they meet a wide range of recreational needs, enhance ecological connectivity and support sustainable drainage.

As part of its consultation work around the exciting multi-million pound regeneration scheme for the Winter Gardens on the seafront in Great Yarmouth, the council has been running workshops, site visits and events to explain the plans and seek community feedback and input.

The Winter Gardens is the last surviving Victorian glass house in the country and, in 2021, was one of five transformational projects across the country to be awarded a Heritage

Horizon Award from The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The Heritage Fund award will see the iron and glass structure restored to its former glory as a people's palace. Complete with beautiful gardens, galleries and café areas it will offer both entertainment and education, breathing new life into the area.

In November, GYBC invited officer and political peers from the Local Government Association (LGA) and other councils to take part in what is known as a Corporate Peer Challenge.

The Peer Review process is designed to support the council's performance by identifying its areas of strength and areas for development. The peer team, consisting of eight local government senior officers and members from across the country, led 40 meetings at the Town Hall and spoke with almost 200 council staff, members and external stakeholders.

The final report highlights GYBC as:

- Ambitious with a strong visible leadership
- Having a deep understanding of the community
- An organisation with a track record of delivering major projects
- A workplace of respectful and constructive relationships (Member/Member and Member/officer)
- Poised to deliver transformation of place/prospects
- Having a strong grasp of local issues and national context

The report also makes some recommendations for areas where improvement could be made.

In response to these recommendations in the Corporate Peer Challenge report, the council has developed a robust action plan. The activities in the action plan will be delivered across the coming year.

Work on the construction of 18 one-bedroom homes at the Beach Coach Station site which will be available for council tenants in the town is almost complete.

The modern one-bedroom properties will be known as Jubilee Court, in honour of Her Majesty's 70 years on the throne. The £3m development is the biggest single expansion in council homes in the borough for 17 years and is being supported with funding from the Government's One Public Estate Brownfield Land Release Fund, and Homes England.

The flats, which are designed to be suitable for two people, are a generous 50sqm each and will be built to high energy-efficiency standards. Tenants will enjoy a shared garden and communal parking area.

Construction work began in May 2022 and is expected to end next month.

A new video and 3D visualisation was produced last Autumn to help promote Great Yarmouth's new offshore energy Operations and Maintenance Campus.

The Campus aims to drive investment in the renewable energy sector in the region and is a central part of the council's economic strategy.

The video was unveiled in Amsterdam at the Offshore Energy Exhibition and Conference - Europe's leading offshore energy industry event.

Work on the Operations and Maintenance Campus - at the southern tip of the South Denes peninsula - is fully funded and already underway with demolition complete and new maritime facilities for service operation vessels and crew transfer vehicles (and associated quay space, parking, servicing, storage areas and access roads) due to be completed by the end of 2023. The Campus is also future proofed by being equipped for electric vessels.

Situated close to the town's deep water outer harbour, Great Yarmouth Energy Park and the new third river crossing which is due to complete in mid-2023, the multi-million-pound Campus is a key part of the continued investment in the borough designed to attract new businesses, jobs and homes.

The partnership project is being delivered by Norfolk County Council, with significant investment and support from both Great Yarmouth Borough Council and New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership. This builds on successful Enterprise Zone delivery to date across both South Denes and Beacon Business Park.

This £21.4 million facility will put the area at the forefront of technological advancements in O&M and its excellent transport links to London and Europe and its location right next to Yarmouth's deep-water port makes it perfectly located to serve the offshore wind industry.

The new Garden Tea Rooms at Great Yarmouth Gorleston Crematorium opened in September.

As well as offering families and friends a space to meet before or after a funeral service, the Tea Rooms are also open to the public for refreshments.

The new Garden Tea Rooms is a warm and welcoming space for families and friends to meet and pay their respects to loved ones, as well as being a community space for residents to use.

The new tea rooms and function area can cater for up to 55 people and have been created following feedback from the crematorium workers and customers.

Great Yarmouth's new £26m Marina Centre on Great Yarmouth's seafront Golden Mile opened in August last year.

It boasts a six-lane swimming pool, learner pool and leisure water with flumes; along with a 120-station gym, four court sports hall, 10m indoor climbing zone, three studios and community spaces.

Many of the facilities feature stunning panoramic views of Great Yarmouth beach, with a central atrium and café linking the promenade to the beach.

The stunning new seafront structure replaces a 1980s centre on the same site which was demolished in 2020 to make way for the new facility. Building began in January 2021, and the centre was handed over to the council's operating partner Freedom Leisure at the end of July.

The centre is as accessible as possible, including pool pods for those with limited mobility and a Changing Places restroom.

Construction work on the final phases of the transformation of Great Yarmouth's town centre market began last year.

The new, more spacious and more accessible six-day market which will approximately double the size of the building.

The new market is proving a success with traders and shoppers and GYBC is committed to completing the project and bringing the benefits of a more accessible and more environmentally friendly market to the town.

The council is also continuing with plans for new paving, seating, and lighting throughout Great Yarmouth town centre.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council bought the former Palmers building in the town's Market Place in 2021 and is now working with partners to transform it into a £15.4m library and learning centre, offering courses up to university level and beyond.

The hub will be a new home for Norfolk County Council's Great Yarmouth Library, along with adult learning, registry office and other community services such as Citizens Advice.

Alongside Norfolk County Council's new programme of adult learning, East Coast College is working with the University of Suffolk to offer university level courses, access to higher education, and adult learning. The University of East Anglia will also offer courses.

Work is well underway and the strip-out of the five storey, 5,300 square metre building is now complete with the venue expected to open for students in time for the 2023-2024 academic year and for the general public next year.

Last year, GYBC secured a Town Deal of £20.1m Government investment to deliver an exciting £60m vision supporting economic regeneration, recovery, jobs and growth across the borough's main urban areas.

The major capital funding followed the submission of an ambitious Town Investment Plan for Great Yarmouth, Gorleston and Bradwell, the ambition is to reinvent public places, to tap into and grow a thriving arts and cultural scene, to support new homes, nurture new jobs, businesses and new opportunities to learn and grow, to make our people, businesses and visitors proud.

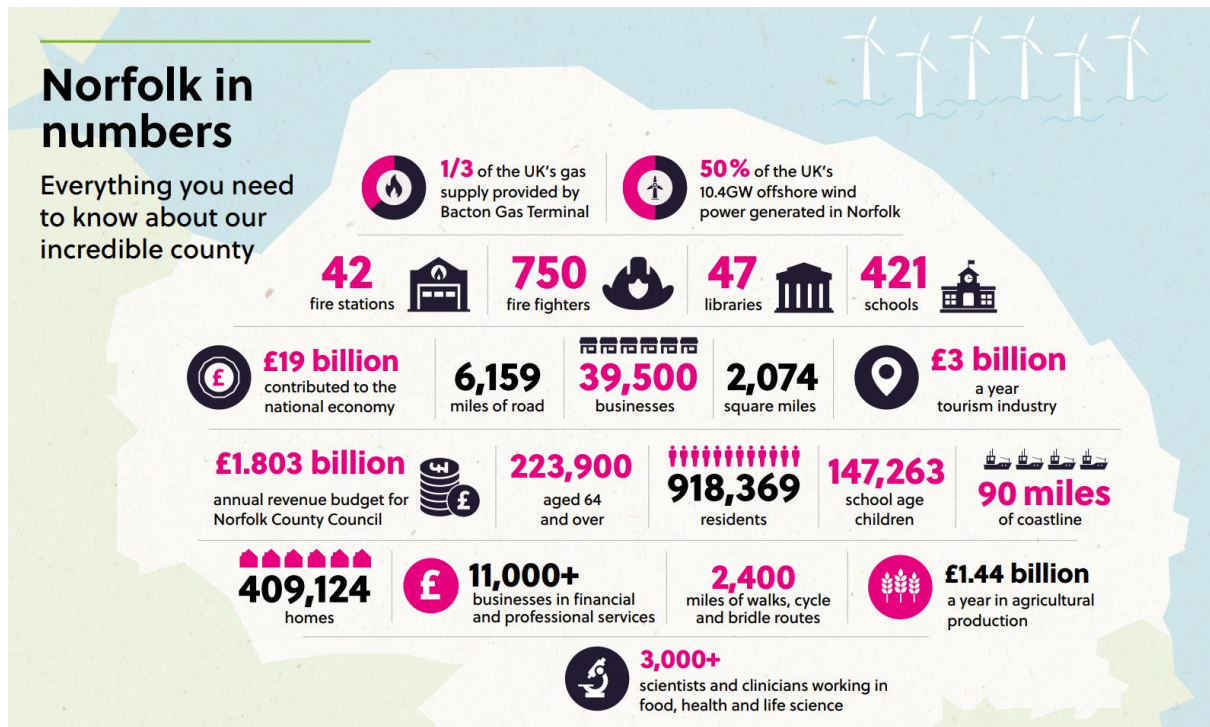
This work was given a huge added boost in February this year with the announcement that the council had been successful in its LUF bid for £20m to regenerate the North Quay area of the town.

Supplemented by more than £2m from the council's own budget, the work will extend, amplify and build on major projects already planned or underway in the town. Providing a retail, leisure and homes and enhancements around the railway station as a key gateway. The work will link into housing developments at The Conge and work in the town centre. The Government has said it is keen to get delivery and spend underway quickly.

The vision to revitalise the town centre is focused around re-introducing more residential uses, making better use of our cultural heritage and historic buildings, highlighted by creating the new £15m library and university centre in the former Palmers department store in the Market Place.

Norfolk in numbers

Everything you need to know about our incredible county



Council agrees £528m budget

Councillors have backed a budget that "delivers for Norfolk", in the face of major challenges facing local government.

Deputy council leader Councillor Andrew Jamieson, cabinet member for finance, told today's full council meeting that the budget would deliver for Norfolk. This is despite major cost and demand pressures facing all councils.

He said: "Our priorities are stable and sustainable finances, well delivered public services, economic growth and protecting and enhancing Norfolk's heritage and environment."

Cllr Jamieson said it was a budget for the future, with an additional £60m for adult social services and £35m extra for children's services, and savings from transforming how the council operates.

Cllr Jamieson pledged to continue to lobby the next Government for multi-year settlements, fair funding and reform of adult social care funding.

County Council leader, Councillor Kay Mason Billig, said the council would continue to be ambitious for Norfolk and had achieved many successes - against a tough economic backdrop.

She said: "We know that our residents will be concerned about the decisions we make and how that may affect them. This year's budget has been one of the toughest to determine but we have a statutory duty to provide a balanced position, and that is what we are presenting to you."

The key headlines from the budget agreed today are:

- £122m of investment to meet demand and cost pressures next year - including £34.6m for inflation, £38m for legislative requirements, £39.7m for demand and demographic issues and £9.6m for policy decisions.
- £41.5m of new savings, including £9.6m from transforming how the council operates.
- A proposed 4.99% increase in the County Council's share of Council Tax, in line with the Government's capping level (2.99% for general Council Tax and 2% for adult social care). This would increase the Council's share of band D bills to £1,672.11. A 4.99% rise would generate £24.9m.
- A small number of the budget proposals have been identified as requiring consultation, as they may relate to a policy or service change. Cabinet will take decisions on these proposals in the summer, after considering the consultation results.

Background:

Norfolk County Council's share of Council Tax bands, 2024-2025:

- A £1,114.74
- B £1,300.53
- C £1,486.32
- D £1,672.11
- E £2,043.69
- F £2,415.27
- G £2,786.85
- H £3,344.22

Proposals that will be consulted on:

- Charging an admin fee for brokering on behalf of people who self-fund their adult social care
- Review of the adult social care non-residential charging policy - including the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG)
- Recommissioning of social isolation and loneliness contracts
- Norfolk Record Office - pre-booking of visits and new paid services to increase income generation
- Switching off 2% of streetlights
- Recycling centres: Reduction of opening hours at some recycling centres to deliver a more consistent approach, in line with neighbouring authorities

Norfolk flood protection takes centre stage in Westminster

The threat posed by flooding and coastal erosion in Norfolk has been laid out starkly for MPs as Norfolk County Council has taken their case for change to the heart of Westminster.

The delegation from Norfolk, led by Norfolk County Council Leader Cllr Kay Mason Billig and the Chair of the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance (NSFA), Henry Cator, met with MPs, on the 71st anniversary of the 1953 North Sea Flood, to explain the risks Norfolk faces and how those risks could be addressed.

As demonstrated over this winter, our county faces regular risks of flooding, with Norfolk ranked tenth most at risk of surface water flooding out of 149 local authority areas. In addition, the county's position on the North Sea exposes it to tidal threats as well as significant coastal erosion: without action, it's estimated that in North Norfolk alone approximately 1,030 residential and commercial properties could be lost to erosion by 2100. That number could be up to 10,000 in all of Norfolk.

These risks threaten both Norfolk residents and the contribution Norfolk makes to the wider country, as home to 54% of the offshore wind generation capacity in the UK and a major producer of food.

In a presentation delivered in Portcullis House, part of the Parliamentary Estate in Westminster, Norfolk's delegation made the case for MPs to:

- Push for legislative permission to build reservoirs designed to capture excess water in times of flood, for use in times of drought
- Advocate for Property Flood Protection measures to be granted directly to the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for faster allocation for those who need it
- Reduce bureaucracy by granting greater autonomy in funding allocation for surface water flood mitigation schemes
- Combine enforcement and maintenance powers and responsibilities for LLFA's
- Support the creation of a dedicated Minister for the Coast

Challenges of coastal erosion and flooding discussed by councillors

Norfolk councillors are being invited to renew their call for a dedicated Minister for the Coast, as well as funding from central government for flood defences for Norfolk.

Norfolk County Council's Infrastructure and Development Select Committee considered a report on Coastal Erosion and Flooding in the county at their meeting in February, forming an update to the previous examination of the issue by the council's Scrutiny Committee in November last year.

The report recommends that councillors support the lobbying of central government for more funding for coastal erosion schemes, as well as support the appointment of a Minister for the Coast to give coastal communities a champion sitting within government who can take a holistic view of the challenges and opportunities that such communities face, especially coastal erosion and flooding.

Securing a commitment to such an appointment would give confidence that coastal issues are recognised at the heart of government and that solutions to the threats these communities face will be addressed.

The report spells out the challenge posted by coastal erosion along Norfolk's 90 miles of coastline, including the predictions of possible sea level rises of up to 1.15m by the end of the century. To compound the challenge, Norfolk has part of the fastest eroding coastline in North-West Europe.

Without action, it's estimated that in North Norfolk alone approximately 1,030 residential and commercial properties could be lost to erosion by 2105.

The Infrastructure and Development Select Committee meeting was held just over three weeks after the Leader of Norfolk County Council, Cllr Kay Mason Billig, visited Westminster to lay out the need for a new Minister for the Coast to MPs.

£150k funding secured for Attleborough Flood Management

£150,000 has been awarded to Norfolk County Council to reduce flooding in north Attleborough by using Natural Flood Management to reduce flood risk in the area by holding storm-water upstream.

The funding, provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), will allow the county council to work with local landowners and the wider community as a first step to reducing flood risk in the area.

Natural Flood Management uses sustainable materials and soft engineering techniques to replicate natural processes in river catchments that slow, store and filter excess water during peak flows. This form of water management has grown in popularity in the UK over the last decade due the benefits it brings for the natural environment and its ability to help mitigate flood risk to homes and businesses downstream.

The scheme will focus on the upper headwaters of the Besthorpe Stream, in a 6.2km² watershed south east of Besthorpe.

The funding will be spent over the next three years; firstly on installing flow gauges to monitor the flow of water across the watershed before and after the installation of Natural Flood Management measures. The measures will be delivered in partnership with local landowners who work this catchment on a day to day basis and may include techniques such as field corner bunds, 'leaky' or woody debris dams and others as appropriate. The intention is to allow everyday base-flows to pass through but obstruct higher flows.

The funding is part of £25 million announced by DEFRA to increase the nation's flood resilience, natural flood management processes protect, restore, and mimic the natural functions of catchments, floodplains and the coast to slow and store water. Among the 39 other projects to receive funding is the Diss Natural Flood Management project run by the River Waveney Trust.

The Environment Agency is overseeing the release of new £25 million programme with work taking place from now until March 2027. Norfolk County Council's Floods team will be further engaging with local landowners over the rest of 2024 to agree plans whilst other measures across North Attleborough related to managing and mitigating flood risk are also being investigated with other authorities to complement the project.

24/7 free travel to all disabled bus pass holders in Norfolk

From 1st February 2024 all Norfolk residents who hold a disabled concessionary travel pass will be eligible for free bus travel 24 hours a day, seven days a week when travelling within the county.

The decision, which was published today by Norfolk County Council, means that more than 14,500 people across the county who hold a concessionary bus pass due to disability, and their eligible companions, will now be able to travel on any bus at any time free of charge across Norfolk.

Previously concessionary pass holders with a disability were only able to travel for free on buses off-peak (all day on Saturdays and Sundays but only from 09:30 Monday to Friday) except for those registered blind or visually impaired.

Offering free travel at all times is over and above the minimum requirement set by government, and is something that a local authority can choose to do but doesn't have to do. The change was recommended following an updated equality impact assessment of the scheme which concluded that it is now unfair to offer a discretionary enhancement to just one group of disabled people (i.e. those who are blind or visually impaired).

The recommendation agreed by the individual cabinet member was to 'extend the concessionary travel discretion of free travel at all times to all eligible disabled passholders and eligible companions, from 1st February 2024.'

The cost of providing this enhancement is estimated at £50,000 which will be funded by the Council's ring-fenced public transport budget provided by the Department for Transport.

Hundreds gather to witness historic moment as Herring Bridge is opened

Hundreds of residents joined local dignitaries and special guests to assist the grand opening of Herring Bridge in Great Yarmouth on Thursday 1st February.

The milestone ceremony began with a blessing of the bridge by Revd Canon Simon Ward, Rector of Great Yarmouth, before MP Brandon Lewis unveiled a commemorative plaque.

A convey of vehicles, including classic cars from East Coast Pirates, emergency services, local hauliers and contractors involved in the project's delivery, along with residents with winning tickets to ride the

famous Great Yarmouth road train, then made the first trip across Herring Bridge.

Following the procession was including motorbikes and members from local scooter and cycling clubs, as well as local running club and pupils from nearby schools.

Printed copies of the souvenir programme are available for free from Great Yarmouth Town Hall.

'Herring Bridge' takes its name from the herring industry which once dominated Great Yarmouth in this area of the port. The name was put forward multiple times by local residents in a competition held in Autumn 2022 which attracted over 300 suggestions. A naming committee consisting of local political and community leaders discussed the suggestions at length and selected five possible options for a public vote in early 2023, with Herring Bridge being voted the favourite.

New Rural Business Awards

Norfolk County Council and the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association have joined forces to launch the new Norfolk Rural Business Awards. The awards were launched on 6th February at the annual Norfolk Farming Conference and are designed to recognise the essential nature and huge importance of Norfolk's rural communities and businesses to the region.

Farmers, young farmers, winemakers, brewers, food producers, agri-tech companies, businesses with close rural connections, and rural community groups are all part of the rural community. With more than 9 different categories from best emerging talent to best farming innovation adopter, it is anticipated these new awards will celebrate exceptional talent and businesses.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing is the fourth largest sector in Norfolk, accounting of 8% of all businesses. And many other businesses across the county are closely linked to the sector including businesses in the

accommodation, food, retail, and food science sectors as well as technology and engineering businesses.

Judging will include a visit to all shortlisted businesses, and each finalist will be asked to participate in a short film.

Award categories include:

- Best Rural Community Initiative - sponsored by Aviva
- Best Farming Innovation Adopter - sponsored by Lovewell Blake
- Best Food Producer - sponsored by Fountain Fresh Imports
- Norfolk's Unsung Hero - sponsored by Breckland District Council
- Best Drink Maker - sponsored by Woodforde's Brewery
- Best Farming Champion - sponsored by CLG Norfolk Ltd
- Best Emerging Talent - sponsored by Plant Grow
- Best High Growth Business - sponsored by Growth Hub
- Best Sustainable Land Use / Farming Exemplar - sponsored by Birketts LLP

New film office opens Norfolk up to filming possibilities

Norfolk County Council has awarded Norfolk Screen a 2-year contract to represent the county as its official Film Office. The combined spend by film and high-end television production (HETV) in the UK reached £6.27 billion in 2022, the highest ever reported.

The two-year Norfolk Film Office pilot programme will proactively promote Norfolk and its assets as a location for TV and film productions, as well as act as the front door for any location enquiries to ensure Norfolk capitalises on the growth of the sector. Any increase in economic activity for the county via additional filming activity will confirm the viability of a stand-alone Film Office.

Large-scale TV or film productions generate an increase in business for a wide range of companies surrounding a filming location, from cafés to taxi companies, accommodation businesses and retail. They also provide opportunities for local film companies to loan equipment or hire out

studio space, and for local freelance film professionals from make-up artists to camera and sound technicians to have the opportunity to work closer to home. The new film office will support a dynamic and growing screen sector cluster within Norfolk.

Norfolk families set to gain more support thanks to a new volunteer service

Families in Norfolk will benefit from a new practical service launched by Norfolk County Council and Home-Start Norfolk.

The County Council has awarded a one-year contract, starting in April 2024, to deliver a new volunteer peer support service to Home-Start Norfolk, as part of its innovative family hub programme.

The service will be accessible for families in Norfolk who are expecting a baby, or have a child up to the age of two-years-old. It is for those who require practical support to make sure they have the tools and resources they need to give their children the best start in life.

Many families need a little extra support during pregnancy and in the early years of their child's development, including practical support such as with understanding which crib or cot to purchase within their budget. Peer support volunteers can help families feel less isolated and to develop networks in their local communities. Many families have shared that they value the support from family, friends, and others with similar lived experiences, often above, and in addition, to support from professionals.

In recognition of the needs of families, Home-Start Norfolk will recruit, train and support volunteers to connect and build relationships with individual families in the comfort of their own homes or local community venues. The service will also include community-based groups and activities, supporting individuals to access wider social activities within their local area and accessing guided self-help resources.

The support will empower parents to have capacity and confidence to ensure their child's needs are met, including help to discover and

navigate their local community, access professional support and support identified needs.

This peer support offer is being delivered as part of Norfolk's Start for Life and Family Hub approach, which is funded through the national Government Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme.

The Start for Life and Family Hubs approach supports Norfolk's vision for every child and young person to flourish. It helps strengthen Norfolk's prevention and early help offer for families with children up to age of 19, or 25 if they have special educational needs and disabilities.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service forms partnership to help people involved in serious road traffic collisions

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is the first fire service to partner with a charity to help those affected by serious road traffic collisions.

Chief Fire Officer, Ceri Sumner, has signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with the Road Victims Trust, so fire fighters at the scene of an accident can signpost people to get ongoing help from the charity.

The Road Victims Trust (RVT) works to help people impacted by grief or trauma following a road death, serious injury or life-changing collision. It offers emotional and practical help, as well as a specialist counselling service to people across the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

The charity, which started offering its support services in this county last summer after receiving funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk, provides free and confidential support for as long as it is needed to those affected by serious collisions - including witnesses.

This partnership builds on Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service's continued work with other key agencies to help reduce the number and impact of serious and fatal collisions in the county.

Free electrical fire safety were run by Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service

Three electrical fire safety events were held at different locations in the county in early March, delivered by Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service.

Members of the public were invited to bring along their electric blankets and portable heaters to be tested and will also be able to speak to the fire service about fire safety in the home.

The events was also attended by Trading Standards and Healthwatch Norfolk. This gave people the chance to find out about product safety and advice, and accessing help with health and social care.

The electrical safety days took take place from 10.30am to 4pm each day at:

- North Earlham Fire Station on Tuesday 5 March
- Great Yarmouth Fire Station on Wednesday 6 March
- King's Lynn North Fire Station on Thursday 7 March

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service was successful in bidding for funding from national campaigning charity Electrical Safety First to hold these events, which aim to help people stay safe in their homes.

There are things everyone can be doing in their home to reduce the risk of fire. Some of these are:

- Testing your smoke alarm regularly
- Staying at least one metre from any portable heaters
- Charging devices when you are awake, alert and around
- Keeping tea towels and oven gloves away from gas hobs

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service offer free Home Fire Safety visits for people over 65 or anyone who has a disability which could make it more difficult to react to a fire.

£1 million boost for Highway Parish Partnership Schemes

Schemes totalling over £1m will be distributed across Norfolk to deliver the wants and needs of local parishes and residents as part of the Highway Parish Partnership.

The Parish Partnership scheme began in September 2011, when Parish and Town Councils were invited to submit bids for local highway improvements, with the County Council funding up to 50% of bid costs. The key benefits of the scheme are that it:

- Delivers local priorities identified by local people.
- Draws in additional funding for small scale highway improvements, enabling us to collectively deliver more schemes.
- Gives local communities an opportunity to directly influence the improvements in their local area. The programme continues to be well received by Parish/Town Councils, Local Members, and communities. Information about the number of bids received through the scheme over the past twelve years demonstrates there is a good spread across Norfolk.

A County Council contribution £467,884 and a Safety Camera Partnership contribution of £43,760 along with funding from Town and Parish Councils, will enable a programme of local works totalling £1,040,586 to be delivered.

For information on current schemes and if there are Parish Councils who wish to apply for future schemes then contact your County Councillor in the first instance. For further information please see <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/parishpartnerships>

Key contacts for families

There's lots of support available for people at any stage of life. Here are some key contacts to help you and your family.

Just One Number

0300 300 0123

For any questions or worries you have about your child

Norfolk County Council

0344 800 8020

To report a safeguarding concern about an adult or child

ChatHealth

07480 635060

Secure text messaging advice service for 11-19-year-olds

Leeway refuge services

0300 561 0077

24-hour helpline for victims of domestic abuse

Age UK's Advice Line

0800 678 1602

Free confidential advice for older people and their families

First Response helpline

111 (option 2)

For people of all ages needing urgent mental health support

Get in touch

Contacting Norfolk County Council

www.norfolk.gov.uk

0344 800 8020

Text Relay: **18001 0344 800 8020**

Post: **Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH**

0344 numbers are charged for just like **01** and **02**.

Information and access to all our customer services is also available at all our libraries.



Do it online

You can find out about our services, report problems or apply for courses, school places and more at www.norfolk.gov.uk – here are just a few examples:

What is 'right up your street'?

Search for local clubs, activities and services at www.communitydirectory.norfolk.gov.uk

Improving your home? Find a trusted trader at www.norfolk.gov.uk/trustedtrader

De-cluttering? Find your local recycling centre at www.norfolk.gov.uk/recycling

Looking for a new school? Find your child's catchment school or apply for a place at www.norfolk.gov.uk/admissions

Want to check for local roadworks?
www.norfolk.gov.uk/roadworks

Has your concessionary bus pass been lost or stolen? Pay for a replacement at www.norfolk.gov.uk/concessionarytravel

Need help getting out and about?
www.norfolk.gov.uk/communitytransport

Need to apply or reapply for a Blue Badge parking permit?
www.norfolk.gov.uk/bluebadge

Renewing a library book?
www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

Need to report faulty street lighting?
www.norfolk.gov.uk/streetlighting

Found an adult learning course you like?
Apply and pay for it online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/adultlearning

Need to report a pothole?
www.norfolk.gov.uk/potholes