

SOUTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT - FEBRUARY 2023

The Budget

The South Norfolk Budget for 24-24 was agreed this month. This covers the Revenue and Capital spending for the next financial year. Where the money comes from and where the money goes!

Just like you setting a precept we have to look at what to do about Council Tax as one of our income sources.

We basically get income from the Government, from you as taxpayers and what income we can generate ourselves. This year as you know we have created "a one officer team" with Broadland, mothballed our old office and that has saved us a lot of money.

SNDC that in this case we have NOT increased our District Council Tax.

You can view all the detail on South Norfolk website.

Community Resilience Plan



With Christmas a distant memory it's tempting to think that the worst Winter weather is behind us. However, some of our coldest weather and heaviest snow often occurs in February and early March.

It's worth planning for severe weather and in particular how your community might be affected by loss of power, gas or water during a severe cold snap.

One of the best ways to do this is to produce a Community Emergency Response Plan, which details the resources, networks and contacts your community can use to respond to all kinds of emergencies.

Your community has lots of useful resources available, such as:

- People willing to check on vulnerable neighbours, pick up shopping and medicine or offer lifts.
- Equipment such as generators, portable lights and other tools.
- A convenient meeting place such as a village hall where people can come and get support and a hot drink.
- Detailed knowledge of local risks.

Having a plan in place makes it easier to tap into these resources

Active NoW

Active Norfolk and Waveney (NoW) is a co-ordination centre for physical activity referrals from the NHS. Commissioned by Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System, Active NoW will be a single point of triage for all physical activity opportunities across the county.

Clinicians can refer patients who would benefit from increased levels of activity who will then be contacted by Active NoW staff who will discuss the patient's goals, capabilities and wider support needs before directing them to the most appropriate form of activity. This could be formal exercise referral programmes such as Broadly Active, or independent, general exercise options such as health walks, parkrun or community-based exercise classes, etc.

The Active NoW team will maintain contact with the patients to judge their progress over 12 weeks and plan a suitable exit route before reporting back to the referring clinician. Residents living in Broadland or

South Norfolk and in need of wider support will be assisted by the appropriate service through the Help Hub.

South Norfolk and Broadland Councils have successfully been contracted to deliver this service across the county on a 12-month recurrent contract. The coordination centre started formally receiving referrals from 23/1/23. Both councils will continue to deliver the Broadly Active exercise referral programme to eligible residents within both districts, alongside a small amount of commissioned delivery in Norwich.

The Councils have also received funding through the Better Care Fund to test referrals to the programme from non-traditional sources such as Adult Social Care and Social prescribers.

Yours Creatively

Starting this month, we are running a project named Yours Creatively, which is included in residents' Yours Sincerely newsletters. Yours Sincerely is posted to community groups and individual residents throughout South Norfolk who have registered to receive the free newsletter. It contains information regarding the Help Hub services available, engaging chat, recipes, wellbeing advice and information about other community events taking place. The aim of the newsletter is to reach out to those more socially isolated in communities so they can feel engaged and are aware of what help is available from the council.

Yours Creatively is an addition to this newsletter with the aim of promoting good mental health and wellbeing through a creative outlet. Working with local artists, five different art projects have been created that can be done at home/in a community group and recipients will also receive a small pack of art materials to enable them to take part. Each project has a theme to explore and includes different written exercises as well as a wide variety of different art techniques to learn and put into practice.

Residents have the option of sending back their work to us in a freepost envelope with a view to creating a public exhibition in the community this Summer.

If you're aware of any community groups that would benefit from receiving the Yours Sincerely/Yours Creatively newsletter, please let them know about it, they can email communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk with their group name and address to be added to the mailing list. If you're aware of any individuals, please get their consent before sending these details over to us.

Mindful Towns and Villages



We want to make South Norfolk a 'Mindful District' by offering community groups and small businesses two types of free mental health training and support from our Help Hub, we will support towns and villages to achieve 'Mindful Town' or 'Mindful Village' status, with the tools to develop a community-led network of Wellbeing Champions.

To be recognised as a 'Mindful Town or Village', several representatives from the local community need to commit to becoming Wellbeing Champions. These could be members from sports clubs, pubs, small local businesses, community organisations, the Town/Parish Council, or any other local community pillars.

These representatives will be offered free training, which will enable them to recognise mental health issues and provide low-level support to individuals in the community. Wellbeing Champions will also be given knowledge on the Councils' Help Hub, local services and how to refer people to a specialist mental health support worker should a resident need further assistance.

When the required number of individuals have completed the training in the area, the Town/ Village will receive window stickers to make residents aware where they can seek support. These can be displayed to show that the place is a safe place to talk and has a Wellbeing Champion for support.

Don't forget Warm Rooms

Town and Parish Council Forum

We recently held this month's Town and Parish Council Forum this covered several topics one is District Direct where we are helping with patients getting discharged from hospital.

Delays in hospital discharges is creating a crisis due to a shortage of admission beds but South Norfolk and Broadland Councils now have a service in the NNUH working to ensure that discharges take place as soon as they can, this is called District Direct. Because the District Direct team can purchase goods and services immediately, they can work quickly to remove impediments to discharge.

The hospital believes that referring a case to District Direct saves, on average, eight bed days.

The teamwork across the whole catchment area of the hospital, irrespective of the district in which the patient lives.

In the financial year to December District Direct have received 1000 referrals thus saving 8,000 bed days.

Warm Rooms

Don't forget the Warm Rooms around your area, they can be checked on the SNDC website [South Norfolk Warm Spaces Grant – Broadland and South Norfolk \(southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk\)](https://southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)



**Help is available now
for every household**

There's support with energy bills,
childcare costs and more.

See what you're eligible for at:
gov.uk/helpforhouseholds



Garden Waste invoices will arrive between 2-6 March. If you receive your invoice by email, these will arrive today. Please check your junk mail if you can't see your invoice. If you haven't received your invoice by 13 March, email wasteadmin.snc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

SNDC Clusters Plan

The South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (VCHAP) will be published **between 9am on Monday 23 January and 5pm on Monday 6 March 2023**, in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Representations are invited on the legal compliance and soundness of the Plan. Any representations submitted must be received by South Norfolk Council within this timeframe.

The purpose of the VCHAP is to deliver growth that will support the vitality of the rural communities of South Norfolk. The proposed plan allocates housing sites in the South Norfolk village cluster settlements, in order to meet the minimum requirements set out in the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP). It also defines the Settlement Limits for the village cluster settlements. A list of the village cluster settlements can be viewed at www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/vchap.

During the publication period, the proposed Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan will be available to view at the following locations:

Online at - www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/vchap

- **South Norfolk Council offices** - Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Rd, Norwich, NR7 0DU (open Mon-Fri: 8.30am-5pm)
- **The Octagon** - Mere Street, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4AH (open Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm)
- **Libraries in South Norfolk** - visit the Norfolk County Council website for details of your local branch (www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives)
 - **Millennium Library** - The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich NR2 1AW (open Mon-Fri: 10am-7pm; Sat: 9am-7pm; Sun: 10.30am-4.30pm)

Supporting documents are also available to view online at the above locations. Further information and background material will also be available through a 'virtual exhibition' which can be accessed during the publication period at: <https://vchap.exhibition.app>.

Anyone wishing to submit a formal representation on the content of the plan may do so, **in writing, and before 5.00pm on 6th March 2023**. These can be submitted online, via the website listed above or using one of our hard copy representation forms which are available at the locations listed above. This will help ensure that submitted representations are in the prescribed format and can be taken into account in the examination of the plan. Completed hard copy forms should be posted to the South Norfolk Council office address listed above.

For further information and enquiries, please contact the Council's Place Shaping Team on (01508) 533805 or at localplan.snc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk.

Focused consultation on sites for Gypsies and Travellers

It has been agreed by Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk cabinets to hold a focused consultation on sites for Gypsies and Travellers. This will commence at 09.00 on Monday 30 January and will close at 17.00 on Monday 13 March 2023.

We are seeking views on sites put forward for consideration for providing residential pitches for Gypsies and Travellers. It is important to note that no final decisions have been made on sites at this stage. The consultation creates a further opportunity for landowners to propose more sites for Gypsies and Travellers.

We are not consulting on any other sites that we asked for views on during previous GNLP consultations.

You can find information about the sites, along with supporting information and useful FAQs, online from 30 January at www.gnlp.org.uk, where you can also comment.

Putting forward comments on behalf of residents

Comments on the Local Plan are published online along with respondents' names but no other personal information. Following a public question that was raised through the Greater Norwich Development Partnership Board at Regulation 18 stage, as to whether there was a legal requirement for respondents' names to be published online with their comments, the Board, chaired by Cllr Shaun Vincent, resolved:

"that it be made clear to respondents to the GNLp consultation that their identity could be withheld from publication, if they made a valid case to do so".

To facilitate this, individuals who feel they have a strong reason for their identity to be withheld will be advised to contact their local councillor to put forward comments on their behalf. We need to do this in order for councillors to confirm that an individual is a local resident and that, in the councillor's judgement, there is a strong reason for the individual's name to be withheld from publication.

Any comments that you submit on behalf of local residents will need to be uploaded to the consultation website at www.gnlp.org.uk which will be live from 30 January. You will need to complete the response under your own name, making it clear in the comments that you are representing the views of a local resident. The GNLp team will not be able to keep individuals directly informed of Local Plan progress subsequently.

Please contact the Greater Norwich Local Plan team (gnlp@norfolk.gov.uk) if you have any questions regarding this or require any help to make representations online, meanwhile, thank you for your assistance in this matter.

The easiest and most efficient way to make comments on the consultation is to submit them online at www.gnlp.org.uk. Alternatively, you can respond in writing using a response form which can be downloaded from www.gnlp.org.uk or requested by phone or email. Written representations should then be emailed or sent to us by post.

Contact details are:

Telephone: 01603 306603

Email: gnlp@norfolk.gov.uk

Post: Greater Norwich Local Plan, Room 428, City Hall, St Peters St, Norwich NR2 1NH

Community Grants



Did you know, if you run a non-profit or community group in the district, you could be eligible for one of our amazing community funding grants? Visit <http://ow.ly/JRjv50MzOwS> to find out which grants you can apply for.



We can only accept dry recycling. On rainy days, please don't leave any extra recycling out beside your bin, as we are unable to take this. Find out what you can and can't recycle at: <http://ow.ly/oHmE50MxHTn>

Election in May



From May 2023 you will be required to show an official form of photographic identification (ID) when you vote in person at a polling station, a list of acceptable ID documents is included below. If you do not have any of the accepted forms of ID you will be able to apply online for a **free** Voter Authority Certificate - this is a photographic identity document specifically for the purpose of voting.

If you own an accepted form of photographic ID but it has expired it can still be used, as long as the photograph is still a good likeness of you.

The application service for Voter Authority Certificates is expected go live mid January 2023, please check our website

for updates and information on how you can apply. If you need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, make sure you do so in good time ahead of it being required at the polling station.

Acceptable forms of ID will include:

- a passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- a driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state
- a biometric immigration document
- an identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- a Blue Badge
- a national identity card issued by an EEA state
- an Older Person's Bus Pass
- a Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- an Oyster 60+ Card
- a Freedom Pass
- a Scottish National Entitlement Card issued in Scotland
- a 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- a Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- a Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a War Disablement SmartPass or War Disabled SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- an Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland

Postal voting does not need a photo ID

If you use a postal vote you do not need a photo ID. If you are currently using postal vote then you carry on as normal. If don't currently have a postal vote and you are registered to vote in an election or referendum, you may be able to vote by post. A postal vote counts the same as a vote in person and is subject to the same security and secrecy provisions.

You do not automatically get a postal vote even if you are correctly registered for an election or referendum. If you do not already have a postal vote, you have to request one. You do not have to ask for a postal vote just for a particular election or referendum but can have it for all subsequent ones.

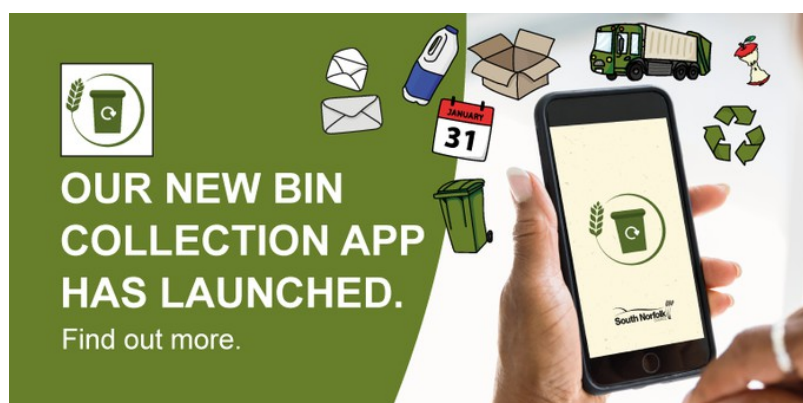
Please apply for a postal vote well before Election Day to request a postal vote as you will need to receive, complete and return a postal vote application form.

We mail out the postal votes about 2 weeks before Election Day and we include a prepaid envelope for their return to our offices. Don't forget to return your postal vote before Election Day, or it will not be counted.

Full details of how postal votes work, and the rules governing them are provided by the [Electoral Commission](#).

Application forms for postal voting are available from the [GOV.UK website](#).

The form needs to be printed and completed by hand. We accept scanned versions, these can be emailed to elections@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk. Alternatively please send paper versions to FAO Electoral Services, Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0DU.



Download the free South Norfolk bin collection app today. Find out when your bins go out and receive notifications about any disruptions that may arise. Find out more and download today at: <http://ow.ly/A1yk50MxMUe>



You will receive your Council Tax bill over the next few weeks.

Our phone lines may be busier than usual, so if you have any queries or need to update your information, please see our dedicated webpage with all the information you'll need.

<http://ow.ly/v8Ey50N9p64>