



Cley Parish Council

Chairman – Cllr. Victoria Holliday

Vice-Chairman Cllr. Richard Allen

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2026 AT 6.00 PM
IN CLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present:-

Chairman – Cllr. V. Holliday, Vice-Chairman – Cllr. R. Allen,
Cllr. R. Deane, Cllr. J. Holman,
Cllr. C. Peters and Cllr. R. Williamson.

Julie Chance – Clerk.

Seven members of the public also attended the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

1.1 Casual Vacancy – Co-Option:- The Clerk reported that no applications have been received to date for the casual vacancy.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr. C. Peters in connection with any Community Café matters.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH JULY, 2026

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th July 2026, having been circulated, were taken as read, **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

Clerk: Julie Chance

Pine Lodge, Gimingham Road, Trimingham, Norfolk, NR11 8HP.

[Tel:- 07305048062](tel:07305048062)

clerk@cleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

4. **NORFOLK RIVERS TRUST**

Cllr. Deane reported that Tim Fisher has requested to postpone until the October meeting when he will have more information concerning funding to support citizen science monitoring on the Glaven.

5. **FOOTPATHS/DEFIBRILLATOR AND SIGNS**

5.1 The Hangs:- The Clerk read an email received from Norfolk County Council stating that they are still waiting to receive an application to extinguish FP30 from the landowners. Cley Parish Council is a consultee. It was **AGREED** that this matter will be removed from the agenda until further information is to hand.

5.2 Defibrillator Quay:- The Clerk confirmed that she has sent the costings to the Quay Committee. Cllr. Deane reported that a very generous donation has been offered from a resident towards the shortfall. Cllr. Deane will obtain confirmation of the amount and inform the Clerk in order that the information to the Quay Committee can be updated.

5.3 Footpaths – Ordnance Survey Map:- The Clerk reported that correspondence has been received from a member of the public stating that the OS Map is incorrect. The Clerk read an email received from Norfolk County Council explaining the background to this error and that they have requested the footpath in question to be removed from their records. Once this process is complete Norfolk County Council will notify Ordnance Survey who will update their mapping. This matter will be removed from the agenda.

Finger Post:- Cllr. Allen reported that the finger posts for FP15 and FP30 are loose in the ground. The Clerk has reported this to Norfolk County Council.

5.4 Drains:- Members reported that the drains are still blocked at Lime Kiln Cottages. Church Lane drains are also blocked which has caused flooding. Cllr. Holliday will liaise with Norfolk County Council on this matter. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

6. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

6.1 County Councillor's Report:- Attached.

6.2 District Councillor's Reports:- Attached.

7. ORGANISATION REPORTS

- 7.1** Allotments:- Cllr. Holman reported that the invoices have been submitted and payments are being received. The posts need replacing before the new signs can be erected. Cllr. Holman is obtaining quotes. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for agreement to the quotes.
- 7.2** Harbour Report:- Cllr. Deane reported that the Harbour Day was well attended and was a great success.
- 7.2a** The Clerk read an update from the Harbour Committee. They are gathering some designs for the gabions and benches and will let the Parish Council have these once obtained. The Committee are meeting with Cllr. Allen and Chris Lubbock to obtain a quote for the ramp and car park. The Clerk will update the defibrillator information as reported previously. The slipway extension will be progressed out of season. The hard surface along the quay heading may need planning permission if the Harbour Committee are not a drainage board. Cllr. Deane will check and this matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.
- 7.3** Village Hall:- Will Gee reported that the AGM will be held on Wednesday 16th September at 6.30 pm. An appeal has been launched for new people to join the committee. The play area has had positive feedback. The next project is wheelchair access to the club room and hall. The Village Hall has applied for grant funding and are waiting to receive the outcome. The digital device has been erected on the Cads Shed.
- 7.4** Neighbourhood Plan:- Minutes attached. The Chairman reported that a drop-in session for the residents will be held on Friday 9th October between 3 to 5 pm and 6 to 8 pm. An advert needs to be placed in the Glaven News and the cost of this will be discussed under finance. It was **AGREED** that the EV Survey will be included. A3 maps of the village need to be obtained and the Clerk will ask the previous Clerk if she is able to help with this.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public said that he does not use the water on the allotments and therefore is not willing to pay for it. It was **AGREED** that this matter will be revisited. The Clerk and Cllr. Holman will liaise and this matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

9. **PLANNING**

- 9.1** PF/26/1399 – Cley Windmill, The Quay, Cley:- No Objections.
- 9.2** Planning Decisions:-
LA/26/0852 – Rocket House, High Street, Cey:- Refused.
PF/26/1343 – The Haven & The Nest, Coast Road, Cley:- Approved.
PF/26/1103 & LA/26/1104 -The Old Stables, Old Hall Farm Barnes, Anterton Hill, Cley:- Approved.
EF/26/1391 – Sandpiper, The Fairstead, Cley:- Permission not required.
HN/26/1278 – 11 Glandford Road, Cley:- Permission not required.
- 9.3** PF/25/1939 – White Cottage:- No update available.
- 9.4** NNDC – Local Plan Review and Call for Sites:- Cley Parish Council have submitted their response to the consultation.

10. **FINANCE**

- 10.1** Payments, Receipts and Bank Reconciliation for the period to 31st August, 2026:- **APPROVED**

10.2 The following payments were AGREED:-	£
Clerk's Salary	508.93
Clerk's Stationery & Ink Expenses	44.94
HMRC – Tax & NI	127.20
Cley Toilet Cleaner	200.00
Judith Holman – Café Expenses	19.97
Judith Holman – Bingo Expenses	56.84
Anglian Chemicals – Sani Bin	16.00
Anglian Chemicals – Consumables	106.68
Kevin Richardson – Grass Maintenance	180.00
Cheverton Printers – Heritage Leaflets	291.20
Graphic Edge – Allotment Signs	132.00
Cley Village Hall – Café	225.00
Cley Village Hall – Parish Council Six Months	108.00
PKF – External Auditors	252.00
NNDC – Election	2,360.71
CountryStyle – Glass Collection	36.00
Sue Peters – Café Expenses	41.75

- 10.3** BAHS annual subscription - £25:- **AGREED.**

- 10.4 NNDC Community Fund:- The Chairman reported that any bids for the funding needs to be received by March 2027. Andy will obtain a quote for printing costs for the village map that he is kindly producing. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.
- 10.5 Community Café and Bingo:- This matter will be deferred until the October meeting when the volunteers will have a proposal to put forward.
- 10.6 AGAR and Notice of Conclusion of Audit:- The Notice has been placed on the website and the notice board.
- 10.7 Annual Insurance:- The Clerk reported that she has obtained one quote but is waiting for another. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for agreement.
- 10.8 Neighbourhood Plan Drop-In Session Advert:- It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would ask The Glaven News to hold a full-page advert. The cost of £40 was **AGREED**.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- 11.1 Email – Disabled Access to the NWT Reserve:- The Clerk reported that an email has been received expressing concern at crossing the A149. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Peters will investigate any solutions to be considered and this matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update. Cllr. Allen will collect the SAM 2 Sign from Kelling Parish Council. This could be considered as one of the solutions if placed on the A149.
- 11.2 Wet Wipes Holiday Cottages:- The Clerk confirmed that she has requested the holiday cottage companies to ask their residents not to put wet wipes down the toilets. This matter will be removed from the agenda.
- 11.3 BT Telephone Poles to Beach:- The Clerk reported that she has not been able to ascertain the body responsible for the poles. It was **AGREED** that this matter will be removed from the agenda.
- 11.4 NCC – Letter from Deputy Leader:- Circulated. Noted.
- 11.5 Trademark “Cley”:- The Clerk read a letter confirming that this trademark application has been withdrawn by the applicant. No further action required.
- 11.6 Police Neighbourhood Drop-in Sessions:- Circulated. Noted.

- 11.7 Sign and speed limit The Fairstead:- The Chairman is liaising with Norfolk County Council in order to have the foliage cut back from the sign. The Chairman reported that the cost for a survey to consider the change of speed limit on The Fairstead is £15,000. The Parish Council do not have this sum available.
- 11.8 Litter Pick:- The litter pick was arranged for Saturday 19th September. This matter will be removed from the agenda.
- 11.9 Webinar – Anglian Water:- Circulated. Noted.
- 11.10 People’s Emergency Briefing – Sheringham:- Circulated. Noted.
- 11.11 NCC – Parish Partnership Funding:- This funding is available again this financial year. The deadline for applications is 1st December 2026. Members were asked to give some thought to any possible schemes. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

12. CLEY COMMUNITY TOILET

- 12.1 The Clerk circulated the latest proposal from Cley Village Hall. Following discussion it was **AGREED** not to proceed with the agreement with Cley Village Hall. Cley Parish Council will investigate an alternative system for the toilet. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

13. EV CHARGERS

- 13.1 Cllr. Deane gave an update. It was **AGREED** that the questionnaire will be placed on the website and the Facebook page with a link. It was **AGREED** that once the paper versions have been completed they will be placed in the donation box for the community toilet. Cllr. Deane will update the questionnaire and send to the Clerk for action.

14. POLICY REVIEW

- 14.1 Loke Management Plan:- No amendments.
- 14.2 Memorial Bench Policy:- Circulated. It was **AGREED** to add maintenance contribution to the policy:- Cllr. Deane will update and send to the Clerk for action.
- 14.3 Financial Regulations:- The Clerk circulated the Norfolk ALC model financial regulations. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for consideration.

15. FULL COUNCIL TRAINING

15.1 It was **AGREED** to book the Full Council Training for Thursday 29th October, 2026 at 6.00 pm in the Club Room of Cley Village Hall.

16. MEETING DATES 2027

16.1 The Clerk circulated the meeting dates which have been booked in the Club Room of Cley Village Hall. The Chairman requested that consideration be given to changing the meeting dates to the first Thursday of each month. Cllr. Deane will confirm with the Clerk whether he is free for the new dates. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for agreement.

17. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Harbour Committee Discussions Update.
SAM 2 Signs – Moving.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 8th October, 2026 at 6.00 pm in Cley Village Hall.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.20 pm.

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Chairman

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Date

County Councillor Report September 26

Many residents in rural villages have said they really need better bus services. I've been speaking with NCC to see if anything can be done to improve this: NCC's role is plugging the gaps where services are not economic, and there is a small budget for that. To that end, we've created a very simple survey – link below - to see where people need to get to from villages which have no or very limited public transport. The responses will help shape any future changes. [Public Transport Survey – Fill in form](#). There's also a word version for those who aren't digitally enabled (attached). Please let me know if you would like me to drop off paper copies. To get these back, probably the easiest way is for residents (or a friend) to take a photo on their mobile and email to me at victoria.holliday.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk.

Officers at NCC have agreed to host a Teams webinar with parishes to discuss what projects are in place at NCC to improve broadband speed and mobile connectivity. They will also touch on their digital inclusion work as well. This will hopefully be scheduled for October. I'll let you know the date.

The Parish Partnership Scheme is back! The County Council has provisionally allocated £500,000 on a 50/50 basis. The closing date for submissions will be 01 December 2026, decisions will be made in March 2027, and any schemes will need to be delivered on the ground by the end of December 2027. Therefore, we would ask that parishes supply their funding by end of April 2027 to prevent lapse of grant. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Norfolk County Council is still only accepting unwanted fridges, freezers and other cooling appliances at the county's largest recycling centres, due to a national shortage of processing sites. Hempton is our closest.

If parishioners have any support needs, or need help navigating the care system, the next dates for the social worker at Heritage House, Wells are 5th and 20th October, and at Glaven Caring, Blakeney, 2nd and 13th October, and 6th and 17th November. No appointment is needed.

I'll be holding a surgery at Wells Library 11-noon Friday 9th October and 13th November, where I'll be happy to answer questions or see if I can help at all with Norfolk County Council matters.

The Government has published a revised [National Planning Policy Framework](#), effective immediately. The revised framework introduces a stronger presumption in favour of sustainable development and increases the weight of national policy in planning decisions. For Norfolk, a key issue is to ensure that increases in housing delivery are matched by timely investment in infrastructure and local services.

The Camera Safety Team Manager has been out and about in our division collecting speeding data and non-compliance with speed limits. I sent round the findings. She has found a couple of sites for enforcement and one to liaise with the police. If you would like me to ask her to monitor any sites in your village that haven't been done, please let me know.

Councillor Update Sept 5th

National Updates

New duty to support children placed in temporary accommodation

From 1 September 2026, councils have a new duty to notify schools, GP practices and health visiting services when a child is placed in temporary accommodation so that children do not lose access to education and health support when their housing circumstances change.

The Government has provided almost £1 million in new burdens funding to support councils with implementation. The change will be particularly relevant to councils managing growing numbers of families in temporary accommodation.

Free school meals expansion comes into effect

New guidance for councils and schools has been published as the expansion of free school meals begins from September 2026. The Government's reforms extend eligibility to children in households receiving Universal Credit, alongside the wider rollout of breakfast clubs.

Rural councils' financial pressures debated in Parliament

A Westminster Hall debate on Government support for rural upper-tier local authorities took place on 2 September. The debate focused on the additional pressures faced by rural county councils, including the cost of providing services across large geographic areas, lower population density and difficulties in achieving economies of scale.

Other areas highlighted include the costs of delivery associated with adult social care, SEND, school transport, highways and public transport. Concerns were also raised around rural areas facing weaker access to services, housing, digital connectivity and economic opportunities, creating additional barriers to growth.

Councillor Update Sept 2nd

Norfolk County Council

Heritage Open Days in Norfolk, 11–20 September

Norfolk Heritage Open Days give residents and visitors the opportunity to explore buildings, historic places and cultural sites across Norfolk, including places that are not usually open to the public. The printed Norfolk listings brochure for 2026 is now available at venues across the county, including The Forum, Norfolk libraries and museums.

All the events are free. Some have limited capacity and must be booked in advance. There are also almost 200 drop-in events that do not require booking. The free open days and activities include several events at Norfolk Museums. Norwich Castle will be taking part on 19 September - this event must be booked in advance.

Further information, brochures and online booking are available on the HOD pages link [Everything you need to know](#).

Flu Vaccinations - NHS Norfolk & Suffolk Integrated Care Board

Eligible residents in Norfolk can book their flu vaccination at a local pharmacy now via the National Booking system, as the NHS begins preparations for winter earlier than usual. Pregnant women and some other eligible groups can receive their vaccination from 1 September, while most eligible adults will be vaccinated from 1 October.

However, residents will likely find it easier to obtain their vaccination from their local GP surgery, and from September local NHS services will contact eligible residents through GP practices, the NHS App or by letter.

Eligible adults do not need to wait for an invitation before booking through the national system. Residents can check eligibility and book via the [NHS flu vaccine webpage](#).

National Updates

Homelessness in county and rural areas - County Councils Network analysis

New [County Councils Network \(CCN\) analysis](#) highlights a sharp rise in homelessness and the use of temporary accommodation in county and rural areas. It finds that more than 23,000 children were living in temporary accommodation in March 2026, while council spending on temporary accommodation more than tripled between 2019/20 and 2024/25.

CCN says rising demand, higher accommodation costs and a shortage of affordable housing are putting growing pressures on councils. It is calling on the Government to

ensure that homelessness funding and affordable housing investment meet the needs of county and rural areas, as well as urban areas.

CCN is thus concerned that almost all the first £10 billion recently allocated through the Social and Affordable Homes Programme (outlined below), will go to England's major cities rather than county and rural areas.

Social and Affordable Homes Programme

The Prime Minister and Secretary of State Angela Rayner have announced nearly £10 billion for the first wave of the Government's Social and Affordable Homes Programme, to support more council, social and affordable homes across England.

More than £2 billion is expected to be invested in mayoral areas outside London, with Homes England administering the programme (outside London).

The funding is expected to help to cut the number of families in temporary accommodation, delivering more than 70,000 homes. The funding will be allocated to 33 Strategic Partners, including councils and housing associations.

This is the first stage of the £39 billion, ten-year programme. At least 60% of homes delivered through the programme are expected to be for Social Rent. More than £16 billion remains to be allocated outside London.

Air pollution warnings – new alert system

The Government has launched a free text message and email alert system to inform people about high levels of air pollution in their local areas.

Users can opt to monitor specific locations, such as their home or workplace, and receive direct alerts when pollution levels are elevated. It aims to help individuals, especially those with health conditions, take practical steps to reduce their exposure to harmful air pollutants.

People can sign up at [Check air quality - GOV.UK](#)

Local Government East – wastewater capacity and housing growth issues

A [new report from Local Government East](#) warns that wastewater infrastructure is becoming a significant barrier to housing delivery across the East of England.

For Norfolk, this matters because wastewater capacity constraints can affect whether planned homes, local infrastructure and economic growth can be delivered in the right places and at the right time.

The report highlights concerns that treatment works and sewerage networks are reaching capacity in parts of the region, creating uncertainty for communities, councils, developers and those preparing or responding to Local Plans.

Tackling rough sleeping this winter

The Prime Minister has announced a national drive to offer everyone sleeping rough a route off the streets by **Christmas**, backed by a £442 million package. The new accommodation and support will be rolled out this winter, with areas facing the greatest pressures receiving the largest share of support.

The government says that research from Crisis suggests preventing 40,000 people from becoming homeless for a year could save taxpayers around £370 million.

Alongside emergency accommodation, the programme will provide practical help with housing, health and other needs. The Government has said the programme will be fully funded within Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government budgets.

In Norfolk, homelessness and rough sleeping are linked to wider pressures including housing supply, health and mental health needs, substance misuse, domestic abuse, care leaver support, financial hardship, and temporary and supported accommodation. The Government's emphasis on joint working reflects Norfolk's existing partnership approach between the County Council, district councils, health partners, police, housing providers and the voluntary sector.

The announcement sits alongside a wider five-year government programme to provide homes and support for people facing the most severe and long-term homelessness.

Support for Care leavers

A government-commissioned review into early deaths among care leavers has found that young people face a sharp reduction in support at age 18, leaving some isolated and without a reliable safety net.

The review, led by Ashley John-Baptiste and Clare Chamberlain, was commissioned after 91 care leaver deaths were notified in 2024/25.

Its central finding is that many young people leaving care are profoundly isolated. While services may respond to a young person's wish for their own place, independence can bring unexpected loneliness, with too few trusted adults close enough to notice when things go wrong.

The report identifies three priorities for change: better preparation for adulthood, reducing the drop in help at 18, and strengthening the skills of the workforce supporting care leavers.

In response, the Government says it is rolling out connected housing options for care leavers, starting with £25 million this year, to increase access to homes that provide community and connection rather than inappropriate or isolating accommodation.

County Cllrs report August

From Victoria Holliday <victoria.holliday.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk>
To Cley Parish Council <clerk@cleyparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Date 2026-07-12 15:25

FYI

Dear Julie

Here is my CC report form august, very many thx

Electrical waste collections resume at Norfolk Recycling Centres from 13 July

Electrical waste items and batteries will again be accepted at all Norfolk recycling centres from Monday 13 July.

Residents can book a visit to a Norfolk recycling centre on the county council website: [Norfolk Recycling Centre bookings](#) or by calling 03448008020.

Free workshops to help people drive safely for longer

In partnership with Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service, Norfolk County Council's public health road safety team is offering free workshops for drivers aged 60 and over to help them drive safely for longer. The workshop covers how driving can change as you get older, key Highway Code updates and practical tips with time to ask questions. Family members wanting to find out about support available for older people to travel safely are also welcome to book a place. Search Older Driver Workshop on the NCC website or call 03448008020. More workshops around the county will be added in the coming months.

Big Holiday Fun back

This summer's Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programme is now live. Between 20 July and 02 September, activities will take place across Norfolk. Hopefully there are still free spaces available for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals, alongside paid places for those who are not eligible - look for Big Holiday Fun on the NCC website. There's lots on in North Norfolk so do have a look. There is the Government promise of free bus travel for children in August.

The Norfolk Crisis and Resilience Grant Fund

This grant programme run by Norfolk County Council supports people facing financial hardship and builds long-term resilience. It provides funding to voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to deliver larger-scale, preventative projects across Norfolk. This programme does not fund one-off crisis payments, but focuses on earlier intervention and long-term impact. Grants of between £50,000 and £200,000 are available. Organisations interested in applying should email communities@norfolk.gov.uk to register their interest or contact me on victoria.holliday.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Fire Safety Campaign

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service, working with the Norfolk Resilience Forum, is running a fire safety campaign in response to the increased risk of outdoor fires during the recent hot, dry weather.

Fire safety advice is available on the county council webpages [here](#).

Help with living costs

The Crisis Resilience Service offers short term financial support and ways to improve your financial resilience.

Find out more at

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41957/What-the-Crisis-and-Resilience-Service-is> or call 03448008020.

Please reach out.

Food support can be accessed

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/accessingfood>

Help with utility bills can be found at

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41958/Help-and-advice-with-utility-bills>

If you're on benefits you can get reduced broadband packages. I have a detailed information sheet on this so please do get in touch if you'd like to find out more.

If anyone in your household has a medical condition which means you use more water than usual, Anglian Water have a scheme (WaterSure) which caps your water bill. You do need a water meter and be on certain income related benefits.

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/services/extra-support/tariff-options/watersure/apply-for-watersure>

If you have any difficulty with forms or applications or need help and support, get in touch or drop into our dedicated Social Worker at The Glaven Centre, Thistleton Court, Blakeney.

Upcoming dates are

Friday 7th August, Tuesday 18th August

Friday 4th September, Tuesday 15th September

Friday 2nd October, Tuesday 13th October

Friday 6th November, Tuesday 17th November

Friday 4th December, Tuesday 15th December

No appointment needed.

Cllr Victoria Holliday

Victoria.holliday.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Councillor Update 17th July

Norfolk Libraries - Summer Reading Challenge

Norfolk Libraries are supporting this year's Summer Reading Challenge, *Read to the Beat*, which uses children's interest in music to encourage reading and help address declining literacy levels. The challenge is important because, nationally, one in four children cannot read well by age 11, and 8.7 million adults lack basic reading skills.

In Norfolk, 10,330 children up to the age of 11 took part last year, showing strong local engagement with the scheme.

The challenge runs from Saturday 4 July to Saturday 12 September, with free children's activities in Norfolk libraries, including sessions with professional music and dance artists. A full list of events can be found [here](#).

All 47 libraries and mobile libraries in Norfolk are taking part, and more than 1,000 children have already signed up.

There is a mini challenge for under-fives, while children aged 4 to 11 can set their own reading goals and explore music-themed reading lists.

Children who complete the challenge will receive a medal and certificate.

Norfolk Museums - summer holiday activities

Norfolk museums are hosting a range of summer holiday programs from mid-July to early September. Highlights include medieval activities at Norwich Castle, celebrating the 100th birthday at the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell, nature and historical trails at Gressenhall Farm, pirate -themed fun at Time & Tide, and audio-visual trails at Strangers' Hall.

Further details of what's on at Norfolk Museums are available [here](#).

Healthy Ageing: feel connected campaign

Public Health Norfolk's *Feel Connected* campaign is encouraging older residents to stay socially active as part of a wider two-year healthy ageing initiative. The current phase runs from 6 July to 20 August 2026 and focuses on reducing loneliness and isolation by helping people aged 55 and over, particularly those approaching retirement, living alone or at risk of isolation, to find local opportunities to connect with others.

Norfolk has one of the highest ageing populations in the UK and around 125,500 people living alone. Social isolation and loneliness are linked to poorer physical and mental health, higher mortality and increased reliance on health and social care services. The campaign highlights the benefits of spending time with others, sharing experiences and feeling part of a community.

Residents can find local activities and support at www.norfolk.gov.uk/feelconnected.

They can also subscribe to the Healthy Ageing newsletter at www.norfolk.gov.uk/healthyageing

Posters and postcards can also be downloaded from the Health Information Resource Service website [here](#). Additional copies can be requested from sophie.harrison@norfolk.gov.uk.

National Updates

Future of Rural England Report

The Government has published the [Future of Rural England report](#), which sets out a long-term vision for improving opportunities and quality of life in rural communities.

Drafted by the Rural Taskforce (a group of rural stakeholders brought together in April 2025 to explore the strengths and opportunities for rural areas), the report highlights challenges around housing, transport, healthcare, digital connectivity, skills and economic opportunity. It also emphasises the need to support rural businesses, strengthen local services and help communities remain sustainable and resilient.

The report focuses on making sure that rural communities are considered in future government policy and investment decisions.

A new cross-government board will oversee this work, with annual public reporting on progress.

The report is particularly relevant to Norfolk because of the county's large rural population and similar challenges around access to services, connectivity, resilience, and economic growth.

30by30 Land Delivery Plan

The Government has published a [30by30 on Land Delivery Plan](#), setting out how England will conserve and manage 30% of land for nature by 2030. Only 7% of land currently meets the criteria, although around 32% already contributes or has potential to contribute.

The plan is relevant for Norfolk because of the county's protected landscapes, coastline, natural assets and habitat restoration opportunities. It highlights the role of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, protected sites, public sector land and local partnerships, but does not provide significant new direct funding for local authorities. Instead, it seeks to align existing funding and attract more private investment.

Support for unpaid carers

The Government has published a new [cross-government action plan](#) to improve support for unpaid carers in England.

Nearly one in ten people is an unpaid carer, with many experiencing pressures on their work, education, health and wellbeing, as well as difficulties accessing breaks

from caring. The plan focuses on three priorities: recognising carers, referring them to support and helping them reach their potential. It includes 42 actions, with overall accountability sitting with a cross-government ministerial group chaired by the Minister of State for Care.

The Norfolk county council webpages already bring together a wide range of support for unpaid carers living in Norfolk, available [here](#).

Norfolk County Council Updates

Recycling rates up

There was an article in the EDP that mentioned that recycling rates were down and linked to the booking system. This was an incorrect link to make as the recycling rates referenced were county wide and largely related to kerbside collections and more specifically the lack of green garden waste collected last year, due to dry conditions.

Please see a link to the published report on p54 of the Agenda for Infrastructure and Development Committee 9 July 2026 [290709 Infrastructure and Development Select Committee Agenda](#) The recycling rates at recycling centres were up 2% on the previous year.

Love Your Market Town Grant scheme reopened

Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 are available for projects such as events, town trails, themed festivals and other activities that support local pride of place, bring people into town centres and encourage residents and visitors to shop locally.

The scheme is supported by Norfolk County Council and district councils. Further details, examples of successful projects and information about how to apply are available [here](#).

Initial ideas must be submitted by 31 August 2026.

Redundancy support for job losses at British Sugar

The council's Redundancy Support Service is helping employees affected by British Sugar's proposal to stop beet processing at Cantley from the end of February 2027. The proposal, subject to consultation, puts around 104 jobs at risk at a site important to the local economy and farming supply chain.

The Cantley site has operated for more than a century and is an important part of the local economy and farming supply chain. British Sugar has said it intends to concentrate beet processing at Wisington, Bury St Edmunds and Newark.

The council's support offer can help affected workers find new employment or self-employment opportunities, access benefits and wellbeing advice, develop skills, and get practical help with CVs, applications, interviews and mentoring.

More information is available at [Redundancy Support Service](#).

Norfolk Trading Standards - further action on illicit cigarettes and tobacco

Norfolk County Council's Trading Standards team, working with Norfolk Police, HMRC and district councils, has continued enforcement against illicit tobacco and vapes, with more than 123,000 illicit cigarettes seized across Norfolk since May 2026.

Recent inspections in Great Yarmouth seized 10,820 illicit cigarettes and 4kg of rolling tobacco. The work protects residents, and supports legitimate businesses. Anyone with information about illegal tobacco sales can help by reporting it through the following channels:

Members of the public wishing to report illegal sales of vapes, cigarettes or tobacco can contact Citizens Advice by calling 0808 223 1133.

NHS Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Plan

NHS Norfolk and Suffolk Integrated Care Board has unveiled its Mental Health Strategic Plan 2026-2031, including a planned £20 million expansion of Mental Health Support Teams to every school and college in Norfolk and Suffolk by 2030.

The plan draws on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments developed with Norfolk and Suffolk County councils and highlights links between poor mental health, deprivation and wider health inequalities, including diagnosed depression among around 15% of adults locally.

This is relevant to Norfolk County Council because mental health affects demand across children's services, adult social care, education, community safety and prevention. The plan aligns with the council's focus on early help, reducing inequalities and managing demand on acute services.

National Updates

Commitment to end rough sleeping

The new Prime Minister has committed to ending rough sleeping, backed by an initial £340 million to provide 1,200 homes and intensive support for at least 3,000 people. The announcement emphasises prevention and joined up working between national and local government, health, housing providers and the voluntary sector. It cites annual rough sleeping costs of £20,128 per person, compared with £1,426 for a successful prevention intervention.

Further details of a five-year programme are due before the autumn.

The Local Government Association response welcomed the ambition but stressed the need for sufficient long-term funding and councils being empowered to lead locally.

£2 bus fare cap from January 2027

Single bus fares in England will be capped at £2 for 2027, replacing the existing £3 cap and backed by £400 million of extra government funding. The cap will benefit longer-distance passengers, including rural and coastal communities where fares can be higher, and it supports access to work, education, services and appointments.

Cllr update 1st Aug

Norfolk County Council Updates

Recycling rates up

Some of you flagged an article that mentioned that Norfolk recycling rates were down and linked this to the booking system. I'm told this was an incorrect link to make as the recycling rates referenced were county wide and largely related to kerbside collections and more specifically the lack of green garden waste collected last year, due to dry conditions. Apparently, the recycling rates at recycling centres were up 2% on the previous year.

Parish Partnership Scheme

Thanks to your hard work and parish contributions, last year's Parish Partnership Scheme delivered almost £800k of highways improvements. Details of how to bid for the 27/28 scheme will be coming out soon.

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government urged to halt local government reorganisation in Norfolk

Norfolk County Council's deputy leader has written to newly appointed Secretary of State for local government, Angela Rayner, to ask for a halt to local government reorganisation.

Further details and a copy of the letter are available in the county council news release [here](#).

Free bus travel for children in August

Don't forget there is free bus travel for children aged 5 to 15 in August. This could save families lots of money and make it easier to visit Norfolk's attractions, events and destinations during the school holidays.

Five of Norfolk's main bus operators are taking part, so children aged 5 to 15 can travel free throughout August on services operated by First Bus, Sanders, Stagecoach, Border Bus and Central Connect.

Further information about participating operators and Good Journey attractions is available at www.travelnorfolk.co.uk/summersavings.

Reuse shops raise for £32,000 for charity

Nelson's Journey, a local charity which supports children and young people in Norfolk who've experienced the death of a significant person, has recently been presented with a cheque for £32,000 raised through donations from Norfolk County Council's Reuse Shops.

Norfolk County Council Updates

Fire & Rescue Service continuing to respond to high summer demand

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service is continuing to raise awareness around the threat of wildfires this summer, with more hot and dry weather in Norfolk.

Demand has been especially high on Norfolk's firefighters this summer, with 1,270 emergencies attended in July. Resources continue to be stretched, and activity levels are commensurate with 2022.

The Service has shared posters with parish councils across the county with advice on how to prevent outdoor fires (let me know if you would like me to resend) and worked with Norfolk Trails and the Norfolk Resilience Forum to produce signage on the county's trail posts on what to do in the event of fire. I have requested these or you can ask directly via norfolkresilienceforum@norfolk.gov.uk

The Fire Service would be very grateful if we would all help get out their message and urge Norfolk residents as far as possible to **safely dispose of rubbish and cigarettes**, and not to use disposable barbecues.

Teaching children and young people water safety this summer

Far too many children and young people lose their lives in the water. The Norfolk Water Safety Forum is offering life saving water safety advice for the summer holidays to keep our children and young people safe.

Details are available here: [Water Safety Advice](#)

Feeling connected

I know all of you are really active in your communities, but you might like to signpost residents to Norfolk County Council Public Health's 'Feel connected' campaign which encourages us all to connect with our community.

With details of events, groups, courses, transport options and digital skills support, find out more at [Feel connected - Norfolk County Council](#) or pop along to your local library where I'm sure they can help you.

Changes to fridge and freezer collections due to national capacity issues

Just a quick reminder: very unfortunately a national shortage of specialist recycling and treatment capacity is affecting fridge and freezer collections across the UK.

From Thursday 6 August, Norfolk County Council will only accept unwanted fridges, freezers and other cooling appliances at the county's largest recycling centres.

Full details of the affected sites and what is accepted are available on the council's website: [Changes to fridge and freezer collections at Norfolk's recycling centres](#).

Where possible, residents are asked to:

- Use retailer take-back or recycling services when buying a replacement appliance.
- Keep using appliances that remain safe and in working order.
- Consider reuse, repair or donation options for working appliances.
- Delay disposal, where safe and practical, until national treatment capacity improves.

Residents should only take fridges, freezers and other cooling appliances for disposal if it is absolutely necessary. If safe to do so, they are encouraged to hold on to unwanted appliances temporarily to help ease pressure on the national system.

Stroke Information Day Norfolk Showground Sept 22nd

The Stroke Association is hosting Stroke Information Live on 22 September 2026 at the Norfolk Showground. This free event has been designed specifically for stroke survivors, carers, family members and friends, offering practical information, inspiring speakers, local support organisations and the chance to connect with others who understand life after stroke. See attached poster for details.

Consultation on proposed new crossing in Fakenham

Residents are invited to comment on a proposed new toucan crossing on Greenway Lane, Fakenham, near the busy junction with Holt Road.

The scheme is expected to cost around £300,000 and will be funded through the government's Active Travel Fund.

[A plan showing the proposals is available to download here.](#) Hard copies can also be viewed at Fakenham Town Council office during normal opening hours.

Feedback can be emailed to TOSchemefeedback@norfolk.gov.uk or sent to Highways Design Team, Floor 1, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH. Responses should reference Toucan Crossing – Greenway Lane.

All responses must be received by Tuesday 1 September 2026.

National Updates

Mental health hubs to expand across England

The Government has announced [plans to create nearly 200 community mental health centres](#) and specialist mental health A&Es across England by 2029, aiming to improve access to urgent support closer to home. The first new sites are due to open this autumn, with the programme backed by £343 million.

The rollout includes 100 new community mental health centres, offering walk-in support without a referral and without a months-long wait, and 59 dedicated mental health emergency departments giving people in crisis specialist care in a place

Sue Boden
Strategy & Policy

designed for them. They will bring together existing teams of nurses, therapists and support workers.

The threshold for applying the rules will rise to contracts above £1 million, so they are less likely to apply to smaller contracts typically sought by smaller firms and local social enterprises.

Cllrs update August 13th

Students across the country received their A level, T Level and Level 3 VTQ results today. There is a wide range of support available for students considering further study, training, employment or other options. This includes advice on courses, careers and alternative routes for those who do not yet have plans in place for September. Students, parents and carers can go to the county council's advice and support, particularly where unsure about next steps or needs help after receiving results. Further detail about the support available is available in the [county council press release](#).

Support is available for families who may be struggling with back-to-school costs, including essential clothing and school uniform. The County Council's Crisis and Resilience Service (CRS) can provide help where households are experiencing financial hardship. A targeted promotion will run in mid-August when a direct e-mail will be sent to parents and carers of children who receive free school meals, including a link to apply for help with school uniform costs.

Support is for Norfolk residents aged 16 or over who can demonstrate financial hardship and are either claiming benefits or working on a low income with minimal disposable income. They can also signpost residents to wider financial and practical support to help manage immediate pressures and improve resilience.

A £1m budget has been allocated to the school uniform promotion, within the wider £6m CRS budget for 2026/27. Find out more about the range of help available through the Crisis and Resilience Service at www.norfolk.gov.uk/CRS. From 17 August there will be a specific link to [apply for school uniform support](#) (this link will work from 17 August). Residents who are not able to apply online can apply by phone through the NCC Customer Contact Centre on 0344 800 8020.

As fire crews continue to deal with outdoor fires, Norfolk residents are urged to continue to take extra care when out and about this summer to cut the risk of avoidable fires.

Norfolk County Council will trial an innovative pothole repair machine as part of ongoing work to improve road maintenance and keep Norfolk's highways in the best possible condition. The trial will take place during the first week of September on planned repairs in South Norfolk. The machine and operator are being provided at no cost to the Council for this short trial. If this short trial is successful, a longer-term trial will be arranged.

The Camera Safety Team Manager has been out and about in our division collecting speeding data and non-compliance with speed limits. She has found a couple of sites for enforcement and one to liaise with the police. If you would like me to ask her to monitor any sites in your village that haven't been done, please let me know.

The Stroke Association is hosting Stroke Information Live on 22nd September 2026 at the Norfolk Showground. This free event has been designed specifically for stroke survivors, carers, family members and friends, offering practical information, inspiring speakers, local support organisations and the chance to connect with others who understand life after stroke. See attached poster for details.

National Updates

Having a say in the future of personal independence payments (PIP)

Disabled people and people with long-term health conditions are being invited by the Government to take part in workshops to help shape recommendations for the future of Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

The 15 workshops will be held online and in person across the UK during September and October 2026. They include a specific online session for Norwich and surrounding areas on Tuesday 29 September. Each workshop lasts from 10am to 4pm, with regular breaks, and will have a maximum of 20 participants. Reasonable adjustments will be made for participants.

The workshops will be used to discuss and refine the Timms Review's emerging recommendations.

Councillors may wish to share this opportunity with residents, local disability organisations, carers' groups and advice services who may know people with lived experience of disability or long-term health conditions. Registration opens on Wednesday 12 August 2026 at 10am and closes on Friday 21 August 2026 at 5pm.

Selected participants will be informed by 4 September 2026.

Further information and details on how to register interest are available [here](#).

Crackdown on vaping and betting shops to revitalise high streets

The Government has announced plans to require new vape shops and adult gaming centres to obtain planning permission. It also intends to give councils greater powers to block betting shops and close businesses selling illegal tobacco.

The changes are intended to give local councils and communities a stronger say over whether new betting shops, vape shops and adult gaming centres are appropriate for their area, particularly on high streets.

The Government has also said it will set clearer expectations for the design and appearance of high street shopfronts, supported by practical guidance for councils.

facilitator noted that supplementary planning documents ceased to have effect from 30 June.

- **Principal residency restriction options:** covering restrictions on new housing, possible restrictions on existing housing (the most contentious element), and making it easier to convert holiday lets back to principal residences. An evidence base on the effect of such restrictions on values should be gathered (examples from Cornwall and the Welsh coast were discussed, along with a case where unsold restricted new-build flats could not obtain mortgages). Impacts on local businesses and the wider village economy were also noted. Agreed the topic should be included to gather views, even if elements do not make the final plan.
- **Likes, dislikes and “magic wand”:** an accessible opening table asking what people value, dislike and would change about Cley, to warm people up and surface ideas.
- **Policy option ideas:** a broader table covering matters discussed by the group that sit outside the main themes, so that nothing in the eventual draft plan comes as a surprise. To include business and jobs (e.g. workshop space, permissive signalling on ground-floor commercial conversion, invitation for ideas), and the river, harbour and access (footpaths and cycle paths, active travel, integration of the harbour and river with village life). The harbour representative reported the forthcoming desilting in front of the mill and new quay heading, which will support visiting boats and village businesses. The poor shingle section of the coast path between Weybourne and Cley was noted as a long-standing issue with potential inland alternatives.

4. Communication and Invitation

- Setting the right tone in advance is critical: the village must understand it is being invited to help form the plan, not being presented with decisions. Lessons were drawn from the Blakeney Harbour consultation and a poorly communicated drop-in event elsewhere that became a public meeting.
- The facilitator will draft a one-page invitation/communication for discussion at the next meeting and circulate it beforehand. A couple of members should deliberately try to misread the draft to catch anything open to negative interpretation.
- Publicity to be multi-pronged: Glaven Valley News advert (copy deadline the 15th of the preceding month – 15 August for the September edition if an October date is chosen), a leaflet drop to every house three to four weeks before the event, posters, the Parish Council Facebook page, and personal invitations where possible.
- Advance notice at the Parish Council meeting will also help raise awareness.

5. Reaching All Parts of the Community

- **Businesses:** unlikely all can attend the event. One-to-one conversations to be offered – the facilitator is willing to undertake these – supported by a short questionnaire that can alternatively be completed and returned. Business invitations could be personalised with a handwritten note.
- **Long-standing residents (“local locals”):** positive, personal encouragement is needed as this group tends to stay away from formal events and can feel it has no voice. The café was suggested as a good venue for informal engagement. It was noted Richard Allen represents this group on the working party.
- **Younger residents:** under-25s are not represented; earlier contributions from a younger attendee had been valuable and further engagement should be sought.
- **Second-home owners and visitors:** a Friday event makes attendance by weekend residents more likely. The event should be open to all, including business people who live outside the parish, with attendees asked where they live; only those on the electoral roll will vote at the eventual referendum.

- **Questionnaire:** a two-sided questionnaire to be available alongside the event for those unable to attend, but not promoted so heavily in advance that it depresses attendance.

6. Process and Timing

- The Parish Council needs to give informal notification to North Norfolk District Council of its intention to prepare a neighbourhood plan. This is a simple form or letter but may require a Parish Council decision. Victoria will place the item on the Parish Council agenda for next week; Victoria and the facilitator will deal with the notification.
- Giving notice does not commit the parish to completing a plan.
- Timing: late September was initially suggested, but given September holidays the preference moved to Friday 2 or Friday 9 October – both still within lighter evenings and before the clocks change. Suggested session times of roughly 3–5 pm and 6–8 pm, with a clear break so it does not appear to be a four-hour meeting.
- Venue: Cley Village Hall. The hall currently has only the dance club booked on the candidate dates, which can be moved. Dates to be checked for any major clashing events.
- Much of the evidence base for policies already exists from previous work; the community's views gathered through this consultation will form a large part of the remainder.

7. Actions

Action	Owner
Place notification of intention to prepare a neighbourhood plan on the Parish Council agenda; submit informal notification to NNDC.	Victoria (with Russell)
Draft the invitation/communication for the event and circulate before the next meeting.	Russell
Develop the table/topic materials, with individual members then adapting the topics they will present into their own words.	Russell / all
Check hall availability and any clashing events for Friday 2 and Friday 9 October; confirm the event date before the next meeting.	Working group / hall
Confirm Glaven Valley News advert copy in line with the chosen date (copy deadline 15th of the preceding month).	Working group
Review the draft invitation critically, including deliberate attempts to misread it.	All

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 4 August 2026, 6.00 pm, Cley Village Hall. Main agenda item: communication of the engagement event, including the draft invitation. The event date (2 or 9 October) is to be decided before then.