

District Councillors' Report, Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council, 26th May 2026

Member Ward Grants

Requests for support with small projects (typically up to £1,000 per project) to benefit the local community can be made to your District Councillors. Please also discuss larger grants with your District Councillors (see Communities Action Fund and Communities Facilities Grants below).

Communities Action Fund (CAF) and Communities Facilities Grant (CFG)

Much larger grants (potentially up to £40,000) are also available from the District Council through CAF and CFG grants. Applications, via your District Councillor, are now open. The closing date is 16th August. Applications are more likely to be funded if matched funding is available from other sources.

Local Government Reform and Devolution

Work is progressing on the planning of the implementation of local government reform, with preliminary proposals being made for the warding of the new authorities and the structure of the teams and councillor committees which will oversee the formation of the three new unitary authorities.

The necessary legislation setting out the timetable for elections to the new authorities (expected May 2027), the voting arrangements and the transitional arrangements is expected to be published in September/October this year.

At the same time, Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council are each considering the possibility of legal challenges to the Government's plans for local government reform.

Greater Norwich Local Plan 2045

South Norfolk Council formally approved commencement of the next iteration of the GNLP. A scoping consultation will be undertaken in the summer, a first 6-week consultation of the local plan will be undertaken in 2027, and the new plan should be adopted in 2029.

Hethel Roundabout Project

With the preparatory phase concluded, the project moves into the heavy construction stage of a new three-arm roundabout on the B1135. This will necessitate full closure of the B1135. Due to the severe disruption to traffic this will create and the knock-on effect to surrounding villages, attempts are being made to secure a meeting for assurance that disruption will be kept to a minimum. South Norfolk Council are leading on communications as they are overseeing delivery and intend sending out information regarding proposed road closures to residents, businesses and parish councils very soon. **Currently road closures to B1135 are scheduled between 14th July & 18th September.**

Wymondham Station Road Closures

Closures are also expected at Wymondham Station Road due to works on and around the railway bridge throughout the summer. Following a recent public meeting hosted by Taylor Wimpey, Vistry and the appointed contractor it is anticipated that all highway infrastructure work will be completed in December 2026 with all contractors off site by the end of January 2027. Further information can be found on:

wymondhamsubway@taylorwimpey-pr.co.uk

Electricals Recycling

A quick reminder about the South Norfolk Council's collection service for small electricals and batteries. Simply book a collection and leave your items out on your usual bin day, they'll do the rest.

✔ What you can recycle: Small items like kettles, toasters, hairdryers, chargers, cables, and batteries

✗ What we can't take: Large appliances (like microwaves or TVs), commercial waste, or items that don't fit in a standard carrier bag.

To book your collection call 1508 533830 or book on line here: <https://orlo.uk/mT0fD>

'Norwich to Tilbury' Update

The National Grid's Development Consent Order continues at the examination phase. This is scheduled to close on 10 August 2026, although an earlier close is possible. The initial public hearings have been completed and can be viewed online: [Examination timetable - Norwich to Tilbury - Find a National Infrastructure Project](#).

PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to campaign against the pylon proposals and are fundraising. For further information visit: <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions>.

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