

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 note funding for 2026/27 is largely allocated.

In Bloom Grant

Applications for In Bloom Grants are open to Parish Councils and other community organisations until 15th November 2026. The grant is limited to £1 per resident and must be matched funded.

Nature Conservation Fund

Applications can be made for grants of up to £10,000 for projects which support nature recovery and improve or help connect residents to accessible greenspaces. The scheme is open to Town and Parish Councils, community groups, charities and schools in South Norfolk. Applications close on Friday 18th September.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/environment/nature-conservation-fund>

Community & Open Spaces Grant

Up to £2.25 million of funding is available to support larger projects valued at over £200,000 which are led by Parish and Town Councils but support South Norfolk Council's strategic ambitions and wider place shaping ambitions.

Safe Recycling of Batteries

The County Council is urging all residents to ensure all batteries are safely recycled to avoid the risk of fires at waste collection and recycling centres. Fires due to batteries have been increasing for a number of years, and 2026 is expected to be the worst on record. Further information is available at:

<https://www.norfolkrecycles.com/article/75867/Electrical-items-and-battery-recycling>

Local Government Reform and Devolution

The Government has announced a pause in plans for LGR with a further announcement expected around the time of the Labour Party Conference. District Council elections will now be held in 2027. The Government states it continues to be committed to the formation of single unitary authorities and that plans for devolution are unchanged.

GNLP2045 – Consultation

Local councils are at an early stage of consulting on the next local plan. A number of discussion documents have been released with background thinking that may shape the plan – this includes thoughts about the importance of a new settlement to help meet the requirement for 20,000 new homes in the period to 2045. The public consultation closes on 28 September. The website also discloses the sites that have been proposed for new development so far.

[Greater Norwich Local Plan - GNLP 2045 Consultations](#)

Food Waste

South Norfolk has successfully started food waste collections in many areas. Some areas of Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall were included in the first phase. The second phase will be commencing 9th November.

Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan

The South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan remains under examination by the Planning Inspectorate. The Plan originally proposed **up to 15 homes on land west of New Road, Ashwellthorpe (site ASH1)**. Following the examination hearings, the Inspector has proposed that this allocation should be deleted, citing concerns about its impact on the rural character of the area and its relatively poor accessibility to local services. This is **not yet a final decision**. South Norfolk Council is currently consulting on the Inspector's proposed Main Modifications, with the consultation running until **26 October 2026**. The Inspector will consider responses before issuing a final report.

Further information: [South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan – Examination](#)

Planning Policy Changes

A new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into effect in August. It substantially reorganises national planning policy and strengthens the importance of national policies in decision-making. It supports development within or adjoining existing settlements with good services, rather than in hamlets or the countryside, and is somewhat more supportive of energy infrastructure.

From the end of October, local Planning Committees will also have a more limited role. Minor residential developments of fewer than 10 homes and minor commercial developments below 1 hectare or 1,000 sq m will normally be determined by planning officers, with a formal framework determining which applications are referred to Committee.

EDF Energy Solar Park

EDF is carrying out a limited consultation on its proposal for a large solar farm between the A140 and the River Tas, running south of Dunston Hall Golf Course. The consultation can be responded to online and further information can be found on: [Stoke Lane Solar Farm - EDF power solutions UK and Ireland](#)

Apex Data Centre

Proposals continue to be developed for a controversial 150 MW data centre on land between the B1113 and the A140 at Harford Bridge. The developer has indicated that a planning application will be submitted to South Norfolk Council in the near future, for this already approved development site.

‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update

The Planning Inspectorate’s Inspection of the Norwich Tilbury Pylon proposal closed on 10 August 2026. The PI’s recommendations to the Secretary of State should be completed by mid-November. 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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