

# District Councillors' Report Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council 23<sup>rd</sup> June 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 16<sup>th</sup> August.** Applications are more likely to be funded if matched funding is available from other sources.

## In Bloom Grant

Applications for In Bloom Grants have reopened to Parish Councils and other community organisations. Grants are for "projects that enhance the visual appeal of their communities, encourage the growing of produce, and promote wildlife and biodiversity." The total amount available per parish is limited to £1 per resident and applications must have at least 50% matched funding. **Applications are now being accepted until 15<sup>th</sup> November 2026.**

## Electricals Recycling

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

👉 Book your collection here: <https://orlo.uk/mT0fD>

## Food Waste Collection

South Norfolk's new weekly food waste collection service will be introduced in phases from **July 2026**, with all households expected to be included by **the end of September 2026**. Residents will receive a kitchen caddy, outdoor food waste bin and liners. The scheme is being introduced to comply with Government "Simpler Recycling" requirements and will divert food waste into renewable energy and fertiliser production.

## Local Government Reform and Devolution

There are no new developments in the ongoing process of local government reform and devolution, although local council leaders continue to voice concern and opposition to the proposals. If elections to the new Unitary Authorities are to happen next May, the Structural Change Order must pass through Parliament in September/October. The advice from South Norfolk Officers is that "LGR is still happening until it is not happening".

## Hethel Roundabout Project

The confirmed dates for the closure of Wymondham Road in Hethel are **14<sup>th</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> September**. During this period Bridge Road in Wrenningham will be closed to all traffic apart from deliveries and local residents and businesses. Access to Browick Road from Wymondham Road will be controlled to ensure diversionary traffic does not use this route.

Temporary traffic lights will be installed on Wymondham Road from 21<sup>st</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October to permit the formal stopping up of the junction with Potash Lane. **The final completion of the work is expected on 20<sup>th</sup> November.**

## Greater Norwich Local Plan 2045

South Norfolk Council has 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 it is expected that the new Unitary Authorities will adopt the plan by 2030.

In response to national planning reforms, revised housing requirements and changes to the plan-making system, a further **'Call for Sites' is open from 15 June to 13 July 2026**, particularly seeking brownfield and Gypsy and Traveller sites. Submitted sites will be assessed for possible allocation, although inclusion is not guaranteed. Further information is available at <https://gnlp.oc2.uk/>.

### East Pye Solar Farm.

Registrations with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for this scheme are now closed. The timetable for the examination stage will now be set by the Planning Inspectorate.

### EDF Energy Solar Park



EDF are nearing completion of the Bloys Grove Solar Farm at Swainsthorpe and a BESS to the North of the village. Now the company has advised that another solar farm is proposed on the East side of the A140 running from Dunston Hall Golf Course to the A140 junction with Church Road, Swainsthorpe – see image. Consultation events will be held later in the year.

### '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>.

### Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber

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