

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. Member Ward Grants for 2025/26 are now fully committed. Further funding is expected to be available in April for the 2026/27 financial year.

Communities Action Fund Grants

South Norfolk Council provides funding to support local community projects via the Communities Action Fund. SNC Cabinet is being asked to approve a further £150,000 in funding for the current financial year. If approved, applications can be made from 12th January until mid-February. This would bring total CAF funding to £300,000 for 2025/26. Applications are made by District Councillors; please contact Bob, Ian or Jim to discuss your project.

Initial budget discussions suggest that CAF funding for 2026/27 could be materially above £300,000. Projects are more likely to be supported if there is a material level of funding from other sources.

Local Government Reform and Devolution

There have been no new announcements regarding the timetable for LGR and devolution. The Government's consultation on the three different proposals for local government reform in Norfolk closed on Sunday 11th January 2026. The consultation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-norfolk-and-suffolk/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-norfolk-and-suffolk>

The consultation is non-binding. The Government is expected to announce its conclusion in March with the enabling legislation laid before Parliament in the Spring, with elections to the new shadow Council(s) in May 2027.

Local councils are being consulted on whether planned local elections (including the already deferred County elections) should be held in May 2026.

Tasway Energy Park

Tasway Energy Park has been awarded a Gate 1 offer following the recent review of Grid Connections by the National Energy System Operator. This means that the project has no confirmed grid connection point and connection date at present.

The Company states: 'The project team will now be reviewing next steps for the Tasway programme and how this outcome will affect this. This outcome will mean there will be a delay to the planning submission process until the project has better visibility of a grid connection point.'

Previously the Company indicated that a planning submission might be made in early 2027.

Further information can be found on: <https://taswayenergypark.co.uk/>

East Pye Solar Farm

This solar proposal has received a Gate 2 offer meaning it has a firm offer (date and place) for connection to the Grid. The developer has announced that it plans to submit its application to the Planning Inspectorate in February 2026. The Inspectorate has 28 days to decide on whether to accept the application.

'Norwich to Tilbury' Update

The National Grid's Development Consent Order remains in its pre-examination phase. The date for registration with the Planning Inspectorate as an interested party has passed. The next stage is for the Inspectorate to announce the dates of the examination.

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027>

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

	<u>Councillor Contact Details</u>	
Cllr. Jim Webber	jim.webber@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk	07394 323215
Cllr. Ian Spratt	ian.spratt@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk	07554 668337
Cllr. Bob McClenning	bob.mcclenning@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk	07769 030926