

# Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall District Councillors Report 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## Member Ward Grants

Member Ward Grants for 2025/26 are now available. 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.

Unfortunately, the total amount available remains at £1,000 per Councillor.

## Community Action Fund Grants

Another round of CAF grants has opened with total funding of £150,000 this year. Applications should be made via a District Councillor for amounts between £1,000 and £15,000. The closing date for applications will be mid-June. Applications are likely to be oversubscribed. Successful projects are likely to have matched funding in place, be able to complete within 12 months of the grant and be able to demonstrate considerable community benefit and support. Interested organisations are encouraged to contact a Councillor at the earliest opportunity.

## New Nature Conservation Fund

The fund has been launched to make up to 5 awards for projects that best meet the following criteria:

- Carbon sequestration: Projects that actively contribute to tackling carbon emissions.
- Biodiversity benefit: Initiatives that enhance local ecosystems and support a diverse range of plant and animal life.
- Public accessibility to greenspace: Creating and improving green spaces that are accessible and enjoyable for the entire community.

Priority will be given to proposals that deliver one or more of the following projects:

- A Miyawaki mini forest
- Pond creation and restoration
- A circular walk

Interested bodies should make an initial expression of interest to the Council as soon as possible.

Applications close on 31 July.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/climate-change-environment/trees-biodiversity/nature-conservation-fund>

## Devolution & Local Government Reform

At the South Norfolk full council meeting held on 18th March, members overwhelmingly voted in favour of undertaking further work to develop a two unitary model for Norfolk. One serving Norwich and East Norfolk, including Great Yarmouth and the other encompassing West Norfolk. It was agreed that this proposal meets government population requirements, avoids disrupting boundary changes and allows rapid, cost-effective implementation and minimum disruption to existing communities. This plan has now been submitted in line with the March 21st deadline. Final proposals need to be submitted in September 2025. Feedback is expected from the Government in April or early May.

## South Norfolk and Broadland Town & Parish Summit 2<sup>nd</sup> April 25.

Discussing Devolution and LGR it was recognised that this is an extremely complex process endeavouring to shape local government for the next 50 years. It has been hurried but South Norfolk Council and the LGR cross party working group are working toward a beneficial conclusion. Councils, including South Norfolk,

intend to engage with communities to get feed-back to fully support the democratic process during this period and beyond.

### **Local Development Scheme – Housing Targets**

A review of the local development scheme (the Greater Norwich Local Plan and other documents) will start later this year. This is a result of the new national planning framework which increases the number of new houses required across Greater Norwich by 28%, from 1,929 per year to 2,590.

The focus is likely to be on developing one or more new settlements as the previous iteration of the Local Plan indicated limited capacity for growth in existing settlements. Sites previously considered include Hethel, Silfield and Honingham Thorpe in Broadland.

### **‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update**

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

**Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber**

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