

Stoke Holy Cross - District Councillors Report 27th November 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.

Christmas Parking Help

South Norfolk Council is an extra hour of free parking on Saturdays in the run-up to Christmas. On 29th November and 6th, 13th, and 20th December, shoppers in Wymondham, Diss, and Loddon can park for 2 hours without charge (usually 1 hour) in Council car parks. Simply display a Free or Pay & Display ticket on your dashboard – while the extra hour won't appear on the ticket, the Council's parking team will automatically apply it. This offer applies only to Free or Pay & Display tickets and does not include RingGo or Check In Check Out options. From 1st December, parking will be free after 4pm Monday to Friday.

Food Waste Collection

Food waste collection will be introduced across South Norfolk in 2026. The service in Stoke Holy Cross is expected to start in July. Recycling will help cut down on waste and transform leftovers into energy and fertiliser. Further details and food waste containers will be available nearer the start date.

Details will be available in the new South Norfolk Bin Collection App, which now includes helpful information on which items can be recycled. The app is available the Google and Apple app stores and through the following link: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/bin-collections-and-app/south-norfolk-bin-collection-app>

Devolution & Local Government Reform

The three different proposals for local government reform have all been accepted by the Government. The Government is now asking for views from Norfolk residents, businesses and community organisation. The consultation is open until 11 January 2026. The survey 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>

South Norfolk councilors are discussing the Council's response at a meeting on 3 December. The Council's own proposal for 2 Unitary Authorities is expected to come closest to meeting all of the Government's objective's for LGR.

The consultation is non-binding. The Government is expected to announce its conclusion in March 2026 with the enabling legislation laid before Parliament in Spring next year, with elections to the new shadow Council(s) in May 2027.

The Mayoral election for Norfolk & Suffolk will be on 7 May 2026 and County Council elections are also scheduled for this date. While deferral of the County elections for another year is not expected, the decision to defer the 2025 elections was not taken until last February.

South Norfolk Planning Consultations

Three new supplementary planning documents (SPDs) are open for consultation. The GNLP Green Infrastructure SPD, the GNLP Sustainable Communities SPD (both closing 19th December) and the South Norfolk and Broadland Design Code SPD (closing 8th December) can be found here:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning/future-development/supplementary-planning-documents/joint-supplementary-planning-documents-for-broadland-and-south-norfolk-councils>

A draft of the Design Code was open for public consultation earlier this year.

Greater Norwich Local Plan

Work is starting on the next iteration of the GNLP. The new plan will need to find sites for 60,000 extra new homes over 30 years to meet the Government's revised housing targets. The call for sites is expected to launch in early 2026.

The aim would be for an updated plan to be adopted in March 2029. This timetable is indicative only. It is expected that the Government will announce reforms to the statutory processes for writing local plans early next year.

Neighbour Planning Grants

The council has established a Neighbourhood Plan Grant Scheme to support the development of Neighbourhood Plans in the district. The fund is intended to complement the national Neighbourhood Planning and is available to parish and town councils that still need additional funding to meet their project costs.

Applicants can apply for a maximum of £6,000 towards the development of their Neighbourhood Plan.

Email: neighbourhoodplans@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

South Norfolk and Broadland Business Award

Nominations can be made under 12 different categories until 12th December.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/business/broadland-and-south-norfolk-business-awards>

Christmas Toy Donation Appeal

SNC are appealing for donations of new toys to be distributed to needy families across the district. The nearest donation centre is Wymondham Leisure Centre. Full details – and ideas – can be found here:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/help-hub/support-community-groups/christmas-toy-donation-appeal>

What Gets You Moving?

The Greater Norwich Growth Board is consulting on physical activity across Greater Norwich. The survey will help to shape future health and wellbeing services, leisure facilities and community programmes. The survey closes on Sunday 30th November. All entrants will be put in a prize draw.

<https://gettalking.norwich.gov.uk/activitysurvey>

Tasway Solar Farm

The Tasway Phase One Consultation is open until December 5. This will be a large 700 MW solar farm with BESS on land running from Ashwellthorpe to Wacton. The information includes the fields under

consideration and possible cable route corridors. The Tasway team are not sure if the farm would connect to the grid at Norwich Main or at the East Pye substation near Great Moulton. The preliminary timetable suggests construction could start in 2030. Further information can be found on:

<https://taswayenergypark.co.uk/>

East Pye Solar Farm

The targeted consultation closed on 26th November. The developer has since announced that it expects to submit its application to the Planning Inspectorate in February 2026. The Inspectorate has a period of 28 days to decide on whether to accept the application.

‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update

The National Grid’s Development Consent Order has been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate. All supporting documentation can now be inspected on the Planning Inspectorate website. Individuals and organisations interested in participating in this process can register with the Planning Inspectorate by November 27, 2025, to have their say.

<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>

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