



STOKE HOLY CROSS ANNUAL PARISH VILLAGE REPORTS THURSDAY 14th APRIL 2022

County Councillor Report for SHX AGM April 2022

Broadband update

Procurement for National Build complete, waiting to see whom Fram contract granted. Then case for details.

Hundreds of free activities available for children and young people this Easter

Bookings are now open for [The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun](#), a program of free activities that will run over the Easter holidays for 5-16-year-olds across Norfolk.

The scheme is provided as part of the government's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) program and is being delivered by Norfolk County Council in partnership with Active Norfolk.

After the success of HAF over the Christmas break and some brilliant feedback from parents, it's returning from 4 April though till 19 April with free activities for children eligible for means-tested free school meals. There'll be a fantastic range of activities taking place including outdoor adventure sports, dance and drama and circus skills across the county. With so many activities on offer, children will have an excellent range of ventures to take part in and may even discover a new passion.

£1million awarded to community groups across Norfolk

Community and voluntary organisations across Norfolk were set for a major cash boost as the recipients of the [Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund](#) were announced.

Norfolk County Council has handed out £1.02 million to 25 different organisations, with grants ranging £3,400 all the way up to £250,000.

We are calling on those eligible to consider coming forward for a world-first trial to find antiviral medicines to treat people with COVID-19. The study is home-based and lasts for only 5 days. Visit <http://panoramictrial.org> for more information. Help us save lives together.

Great news... You can now recycle empty crisp packets (and other plastic bags and wrapping) at local supermarkets. Let's all do the right thing. Find your nearest participating supermarket <http://ow.ly/RNsC50IwSYx>
[#NoTimeToWaste](#) [#ImprovingTheEnvironment](#) [#RepeatTheCycle](#)

These are just some of the gas canisters that have been removed from Norfolk's recycle bins. It's very dangerous to put gas canisters in your bin as they could cause an explosion. Make sure you take empty canisters to your nearest recycling centre instead <http://ow.ly/ILyn50Ip5Te>

Are you looking to host a Ukrainian refugee or family? Want to understand more about the process and what's involved? Join our online information session at 7pm on Monday 28 March. Please join on Zoom here: <http://ow.ly/9mIj50Iqv9W>. Passcode: 283100. [#SupportingCommunities](#)

We are working with other local government partners to support residents to host refugees fleeing from the conflict in Ukraine. Read more about how you can make a difference via donations or support <http://ow.ly/cLxf50IorJf> [#empoweringcommunities](#) [#supportingindividuals](#)
[Young Carers Support](#)



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The Semi-Independency living Home is doing great
[Green city centres](#)

A successful bid by Norfolk County Council has seen Norwich become one of only three cities in the country to secure £500,000 Zero Emission Transport City (ZETC) development funding from the government.

The Department for Transport funding will allow a detailed study to be carried out this year which will explore, alongside residents, businesses and transport operators, the benefits and impacts that a zero emission zone in the city centre could bring and how it could be established.

The work will also consider what support would be needed to make any zero emission zone work for all who live, work and do business in the area, and would build on plans already underway that are hoped will start to bring zero emission buses to the city.

Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport, said: "We're very pleased to be selected as this innovative pilot programme aims to demonstrate practical ways to decarbonise transport systems in city centres. A zero emission zone would link in well with our forward looking Transport for Norwich Strategy, and wider Norfolk Local Transport Plan, which aim to cut carbon, reduce congestion, improve air quality, and build on some of the great work to boost our cycling and public transport network."

Norwich already has a network of streets in the city centre where access is restricted to general traffic, several of which allow no vehicles at all. This network of restricted access city centre streets provides the ideal foundation to deliver a new zero emission zone for Norwich.

The work with local businesses and residents will involve the production of a detailed business case over the summer, which will set out how a ZETC would be established. This development process will include advice from the Department for Transport's analytical, finance, and economic experts.

Norfolk County Council adopted its fourth Local Transport Plan Strategy in 2021. This covers the longer-term until 2036 and was developed taking available evidence into account and was the subject of consultation and appropriate appraisal and assessments. More information can be found [here](#).

This Implementation Plan has been developed following adoption of the Local Transport Plan Strategy. When this Implementation Plan is adopted, it - together with the strategy - will form the local transport plan for the county (referred to here as LTP4) and will replace the previous local transport plan (LTP3).

[Electric Buses](#), working to be carbon neutral by 2030

In a major boost to Norfolk's ambitions to run a net zero transport system £3.2million in funding has been secured to introduce 15 electric buses to the network in Norwich.

Norfolk County Council has secured the funding after a joint bid with First Bus was submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) for funding from the 'Zero Emission Bus Regional Access' (ZEBRA) scheme.



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This bid is matched by £3.6m of local investment from First Bus and will deliver 15 battery electric buses which will be in operation by March 2024.

Tom McCabe, Norfolk County Council's Director of Community and Environmental Services, said: "It is fantastic news that we have received the £3.2m funding from the Department for Transport Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme. This funding will allow us to work closely with First to replace 15 single decker buses with electric single decker vehicles. The new vehicles will operate on existing bus routes which operate through the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) in Norwich City Centre and will help us to reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 600 tonnes a year. This will be a huge step in our commitment to improve air quality in the Greater Norwich area in our journey towards a Net Zero transport system."

Steve Wickers, Managing Director at First Norfolk & Suffolk said: "As leaders in sustainable mobility, we are fully aligned with the Government's ambitions for a net-zero carbon transport system, including zero-emission bus fleets. We are pleased to receive the outcome of the ZEBRA funding application for Norfolk and the confirmation that funding has been secured to introduce 15 new electric buses into our local fleet."

"We will continue to work closely with Norfolk County Council to deliver bus priority for customers in Norwich and progress the decarbonisation of our bus fleets across the region. More widely, our work with central and local Government across the UK continues to support the delivery of our national decarbonisation ambitions and commitments."

The new vehicles will operate on four existing bus routes, all of which operate through the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Norwich City Centre. The routes are:

- Green Line: Bus routes 15 / 15A / 15B
- Yellow Line: Bus route 29
- Purple Line: Bus route 39
- Charcoal Line: Bus routes 40 / 40A

The news comes just days after Norfolk County Council also secured £500,000 Zero Emission Transport City (ZETC) development funding from the government which will allow a detailed study to be carried out this year to explore the benefits and impacts that a zero-emission zone in the city centre could bring and how it could be established.

[Local Transport Plan 4, Implementation Plan - Norfolk County Council - Citizen Space](#)

I have sent Clerk invite to get the newsletter for this project. This will be quickest way to order in future

This Easter remember to recycle **everything but the egg**. You enjoy the chocolate while the plastic, box and foil can all go in your household recycling bin.

Lots of Easter chocolates come wrapped in foil. Foil can be recycled. Scrunch the foil wrappers together into a ball, once it is the size of a golf ball put it into your recycling bin. The larger the ball of foil, the easier it is to be sorted by our machines at the recycling facility.



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ReCycle and Reuse: We're excited that Norwich South recycling shop officially opened its doors today!

It's at the Norwich South recycling centre and is set to save 100 tonnes of good quality second-hand items from being thrown away each year - It has also been revealed today that Big C is the new chosen charity which will receive a cut of the proceeds from the reuse shops.

Come along and browse, or donate, and find a bargain!

For more information on reuse shops, and to find the location and opening times of this, and all Norfolk's reuse shops, visit: <https://orlo.uk/vgtqU>

Norfolk's Recycling Centres sprung in to their summer opening hours from 01 April, centres are now open 9am - 5pm.

Buzz created as pollinator paradises set for Norfolk roadsides

Tripling the number of Roadside Nature Reserves in Norfolk were among a range of green measures considered by County Councillors last July.

Fewer cuts for rural roadsides, a pollinator action plan, and 188 more roadside nature reserves are all on the cards as part of plans to boost biodiversity along roads and paths across the county.

Also on the agenda were plans to help boost cycling and walking across the county, and development of a new verge management policy which will include information for parish and town councils wishing to take on responsibility for verge cutting in their local area. The aim is to help involve local communities more in decisions about verge management near them.

Inspectors praise support for children in care in Norfolk

Most children in care in Norfolk are well looked after and receive good support for their emotional and mental health and education, Ofsted inspectors have found.

A team of Her Majesty's Inspectors visited Norfolk County Council in October for a two-day focused visit of the council's services for children in its care.

In a letter detailing their findings, inspectors said that social workers know their children well, listen to them and help them to understand their experiences.

Ofsted's visit follows a [similar focused visit in 2019](#), which looked at how the council responds to child safeguarding calls and referrals. Following that visit, inspectors described the quality of decision making as "consistently strong".

Plans for thousands of new school places in Norfolk

More than a dozen new primary schools could be needed in Norfolk in the next decade, to cater for growing pupil numbers in areas of development.

A report to Norfolk County Council's Cabinet highlighted the scale of school development that is likely to be needed to support Norfolk's growing communities. It addresses both demographic changes and population growth from new housing.

The report, discussed by members on 31st January, provided a snapshot of the council's plans to ensure there are sufficient school places for Norfolk children aged four to 16.



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Alongside district councils, the County Council expects to secure nearly £100m in developer contributions for the proposed new and extended schools but if all of the places are needed, a further £191m would need to be found.

Some of this will be met by Community Infrastructure Levy and government grant contributions.

Scams

- [Scam Alert - International FIFA World Cup Online Lottery Letters](#)
- [Cold Calling Alert - Telephone cold callers regarding solar panels](#)
- [Cold Calling Alert - Telephone cold calls regarding 'saving energy'](#)
- [Scam Alert - Royal Mail Parcel Postage Scams](#)
- [Food Alert - The Food Standards Agency issues advice to consumers that some food products labelled as containing sunflower oil may instead contain refined rapeseed oil due to the ongoing conflict in the Ukraine](#)
- [Safety Alert - Morrisons is recalling their 'Morrisons Elements Scented Tin Candles' in variants 'Fire', 'Water', 'Earth' & 'Air' as some may burn in an uncontrolled manner presenting a fire risk](#)
- [Food Alert - Lidl GB is recalling 'Alesto Californian Pistachios Roasted & Salted 200g' with the best before date 04.10.2022 and the batch code LP200N22004 due to the potential presence of Salmonella](#)
- [Scam Alert - Text messages claiming to be from the 'Post Office'](#)
- [Information Alert - Counterfeit 'Wonka Bars' in circulation](#)
- [Scam Alert - Investment Scams and fake cryptocurrency exchanges](#)
- [Scam Alert - Scam Callers claiming to be from the Fire Service](#)
- [Information Alert - 'Copycat' websites](#)
- [Scam Alert - Text messages about Monzo bank accounts - 07 April 2022](#)
- [Scam Alert - Free Chocolate Easter Egg Scams - 07 April 2022](#)
- [Scam Alert - HMRC issue reminder to self-assessment users to be Scam Aware - 5 April 2022](#)
- [Scam Alert - Suspicious Texts claiming to be from Energy Providers - 01 April 2022](#)

District Councillors Report for SHX AGM April 2022

Council Tax for the year 2022/3 will increase by 3%. Arrangements are being made for the £150 rebate for bands A to D during April. Residents who pay Council Tax by direct debit



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will be automatically reimbursed. Other residents may be contacted individually.

South Norfolk Council had an under spend of some £2-3m on its Revenue Budget for the year 2021/22. Ways of using the monies on a “one off” basis are being explored. One proposal is for some of the money to be used as “up front “CIL payments for those villages wishing to put forward capital projects in the current financial year. A paper is being developed which will be sent to Cabinet for consideration in the summer. It is proposed that some of the under spend could be used to install electric car charging points in public places such as village halls.

There is a proposal to combine the offices of South Norfolk and Broadland Councils. A suggested site is a vacated office building on Broadland Business Park. Much work is being done to determine if this is a viable financial and practical proposition.

The Greater Norwich Local Plan is currently being considered by The Government Inspector. The findings are expected to be published later in the year.

A recent dictat from Natural England has required The Council to provide proof of amelioration from harm of all proposed housing development. For the time being The Council will be unable to approve any such applications. The Council is currently considering how to satisfy these requirements. For the time being no approvals can be given.

District Councillor Nigel Legg

ST JOHN AMBULANCE STOKE HOLY CROSS DIVISION

On 22nd June we resumed our meetings led by Jack our Unit Leader assisted by Annika and Caitlin. All wore masks, sat socially distanced and followed St. George's Hall rules.

Sadly, the Badgers had been suspended since the leader was unable to continue and all but one had reached the age for joining the cadets.

With 18 cadets we had to split them in half as we couldn't have more than 10 at a time. This meant they could only have 3 meetings each before the summer break.

On return in September, we were able to have them all together and they achieved their annual First Aid Assessment over 10 weeks. Alongside this they completed proficiencies in Healthy Minds, Exploration of Health and Medicine, Patient Care and Ambulance Awareness. The number of members has depleted somewhat lately as some have moved on to university and others find it difficult to fit in with school work.

We are pursuing enquiries and aim to hopefully recruit up to 10 bringing our numbers to 20 in May.

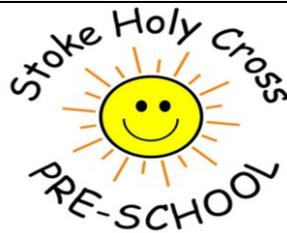
Many of our cadets come from out of this area, in fact only 3 are local. We have cadets from



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Norwich, Forncett, Hempnall, Long Stratton, Bunwell, Tharston and Little Melton. There are very few divisions still in operation but we hope Stoke will go on for many years to come.

**Margaret Peters
HR Unit Lead**



Stoke Holy Cross Preschool Annual Report for the Parish Council AGM
April 2022

Stoke Holy Cross Preschool has had a few changes during the last year. The biggest being staffing Hazel Yuill left to pursue a job in catering and in September Karen Blazer took over as Manager from the Deputy Managers position.

We employed Emma as assistant last Easter, Rachel (a local mum) in September 21 and Maryanna as Deputy Manager in October 21. As a new team we have been working on building a strong team and I feel we all work well together. Emma and Rachel are working towards Early Years qualifications through apprenticeships and Maryanna has Early years teacher status. We are now advertising for a qualified Bank Staff team to cover courses and sickness.

We have 24 children on the books and are running at capacity of 16 children per session on 3 out of 5 days. Our breakfast club has continued to be popular and is running Monday to Thursday Mornings. We have also introduced a Holiday club this Easter Break and have run for two days, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th April. We hope to carry this on in the summer Holidays too. I am now in the process of looking at the new starters for September and have approx. 18 families to get in touch with so I'm confident we will have healthy numbers of children to start the new 21/22 school year.

Preschool has been affected by covid more this year than previous years. Closing for one-week last June, one week in February this year and one day in March for Staff testing positive for covid. We have had a few children testing positive and a lot of children with general illness which has meant we have rarely had full numbers all term. We are hoping the better weather brings better attendance and less illness.

Our committee, headed up by Chair Jenny Wilkinson, has arranged a few fundraising events, such as story cafes in October and February. Unfortunately, our big Christmas fundraiser was cancelled due to rising Covid numbers. We are hoping to arrange more during the spring and summer months.

Karen Blazer
Manager



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Stoke Holy Cross Fuel Allotment Trust

Registered Charity number 224383

Annual Report to the Parish Council – 2022

Meetings of Trustees

The Trustees as at 31st March 2022 were Julian Foster, Margaret Nudds, David Dobson, Nicholas Goodwin, and Rev. Rob Baker (unchanged from the previous year).

The Trustees last met (via Zoom) on 22nd February.

Grants/Finances

The Trust's income is generated from the rent of the land in Chandler Road / Carol Close, and earnings from investments. Income in 2020-21 totalled £2,104, and in 2019/20 £2,671.

Applications for financial assistance were considered by Trustees in each year in accordance with the rules of the Trust, which include the requirements that applicants must (i) be residents of the parish, and (ii) be in "need, hardship, or distress".

In 2021 a total of ten grants were approved, each for a sum of £250 making a total of £2,500, and in 2020 nine grants totalled £1,800.

Other items

- The Trust is the freeholder under two leases for the land in Chandler Road/Carol Close with the Parish Council (for the play park) and the Dog walkers' group (for the dog walking field). Lease renewals have been agreed with both lessees within the last 2 years.
- Trustees are always looking to extend the support that they can provide to those who need it, and ask that the Parish Council and others make them aware of anyone who might need their assistance.

Julian Foster

On behalf of the Trustees

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ALLOTMENT & LEISURE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION REPORT 2022

Ian Himpleman, Chair of the Stoke Holy Cross Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Association.

This year the Association is celebrating its twelfth anniversary of the Parish Council securing land for allotments in Stoke Holy Cross.

The allotments are at the centre of the village next to the park, there are 19 full plots and some of these have been split into half plots and others are shared to maximise the number of villagers who can have an allotment.



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All the plots are currently occupied and we have a waiting list. Interest in the allotments remains strong.

Sadly, we've recently experienced antisocial behaviour with theft and vandalism on the site, these have been reported to the police.

In 2021 the allotments joined in the village Open Gardens event and we saw our largest number of visitors ever for an open day. Members were also involved in the cultivation and planting of the sunflowers in the pavilion car park which received lots of appreciative comments. We also joined the initiative in the village to set aside and plant flowering areas for pollinators and to encourage wildlife.

In the summer the association members will be joining in the jubilee celebrations and be taking part in the Open Gardens again.

We've just resumed in person social events by holding one of our very popular quiz nights in the Church Hall, and we hope to restart the Produce Show in September.

If you're interested in finding out more about the allotments then please speak to me or any of the plot holders.

STOKE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Nothing much to report except that pitch works are planned for the week commencing 25th April and that there is no need this year to fence it all off. Also, Tim will do the first few cuts as before to bring it down in length. It can be done earlier this time so shouldn't have the same issue with clumps of dead grass.

Glyn Baker

Stoke Holy Cross with Dunston churches

Report to Stoke with Dunston Annual Parish Meeting 2022

Once again, a **big thank you** to everyone in the whole community for all you have given to our life together in the last year, and the different ways you've blessed the church in that time.

As the year started, **another lockdown** was enforced, and we took the decision to suspend services in person. We didn't let this daunt us, and continued to meet online to pray every morning, and to gather on Zoom and YouTube for worship on Sundays.

Easter is always a time of great rejoicing but all the more so this year, as wonderfully we were able to **gather at Stoke for an outdoor service** on a beautiful Spring Day.



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After Easter came some welcome changes, as meeting in person seemed more appropriate again, and we were able to follow the government roadmap to encourage more in the way of **fellowship for individuals and small groups**. Groups for children were near the front of the queue, meaning that **Sparklers could resume meeting in the hall** after a very long year of absence.

Brilliantly we were able to rediscover something like normal life in the summer and run a **brilliant holiday club** for 30 children over three fun-filled days thinking about the wonderful world that God has made for us.

The summer brought something new and exciting for us as a family, as for the first time we had a period of **sabbatical leave**. Cathryn and I had time to do some amazing things as a family, a couple, and as individuals.

Over that three month period some great stuff was going on in the churches here. One of those was the fruit of much preparatory work and prayer over many years, and the fulfilment of a journey we had clearly seen God leading us on, as we began **partnership with Youth for Christ** and their youth worker Gary Watson. Gary worked with us on assemblies and the holiday club before launching in evening meeting in the autumn. This grew rapidly over the first few months to the point that we now have about **25 young people on the books**, and often up to 18 now meeting weekly on a Thursday. Many thanks to Gary, Lyn, Tom and a huge team of volunteers for all that you have brought to this.

Gary and Lyn have been able to run games sessions at lunchtime in the school alongside this, and we're glad of our continued **connection with the school**, now once again providing in-person assemblies for different age groups every week.

Alongside this we had approaching 20 members of our **church and wider community coming together to form a choir** that sang at all of our Christmas carol services this year, which was an absolutely brilliant thing. We also began a monthly get-together for people who might feel in need of company to drop in for **coffee at the Church Hall**.

The **Church Hall** is back in full swing again now, and the Post Office keeps running on Mondays as it has done throughout the pandemic. We're grateful to the parish council for making a contribution towards the cost of this and it really is a project done in partnership with them because we don't receive anything from the central post office for it. People are welcome to book the hall where it might be helpful to them and I'm grateful to Karen Pearce who has taken over looking after these, and whose contact details are in the Free for All, on the noticeboard and so on.

Over the last year we have been working hard too in the **churtyard** and we're grateful to an amazing team of volunteers who have really given themselves to this – again the churtyard is something which we don't receive any sort of central funding for, and so most of the upkeep of that is resourced by our members, and fees for some of the things we do and so on.

Like you we're not just looking back to 2021 but ahead into this year, and are conscious of different ways that life might be becoming difficult for lots of people – it's hard to be recovering from the



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pandemic at the same time as the cost of living crisis really beginning to bite – and we want to be available to anyone in the village who might need some help in months to come, so please do approach us, please do gently nudge your friends and neighbours about approaching us if you think we could be a help and a blessing to them.

Rob Baker
