

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS FOR MEETING 2ND MARCH

1. CLERK'S REPORT
2. TAYLOR WIMPEY UPDATES
3. REEDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
4. WOODLAND WALK
5. LITTER PICK
6. NCC PARISH REPORT JANUARY
7. NCC PARISH REPORT FEBRUARY
8. CORRESPONDENCE

Reedham Parish Council

Clerk's Report for the Parish Council meeting on the 2nd March 2026 – Agenda Item 4

Broadland Tree Warden Network

Unfortunately the Broadland tree warden network has closed as John Fleetwood is retiring and they have been unable to find anyone to replace him as Network co-ordinator. Therefore they have not accepted our £50 donation from January 2026.

Defibrillator

The new Village Hall defibrillator was installed in January. Chris Bradbury is the primary guardian for this.

Finger Post Witton Green

This has now been installed, many thanks to the Cllrs involved.

Riverside

Broadland DC have advised that they are resurfacing the Quay headings.

Keith Sales Memorial Bench and Trophy

The bench has been delivered to the Sales family, Fred will be installing this on the agreed site on Mill Road near to the Village Sign.

The trophy engraved with the wording 'Keith Sales Memorial Cup, Practical Achievement Award' as agreed with the family and the school has been delivered. This has been passed to the school for presentation in July.

Barn Owl Close Phase 2

I have received correspondence from a resident regarding construction activity associated with Phase 2 of the Barn Owl Close development. Concerns raised relate to vehicle manoeuvring, use of the access road, and compliance with the approved Construction Management Plan.

All correspondence has been forwarded to Badger Building in accordance with the Parish Council's liaison role. I have also spoken with Badger regarding site operations; they have advised that construction activity and vehicle movements are being managed in line with the approved Construction Management Plan. The access road to the development remains in the ownership of Badger Building.

The Parish Council does not have enforcement powers in relation to the Construction Management Plan or the management of private land. I have advised the resident that any further matters relating to planning compliance should be addressed to Broadland Planning.

Review of the Greater Norwich Local Plan - Call for Sites

From Greater Norwich Local Plan <GNLP@norfolk.gov.uk>

Date Fri 2026-02-06 2:51 PM

Cc Greater Norwich Local Plan <GNLP@norfolk.gov.uk>

Dear Clerk

The Greater Norwich authorities (Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council, working with Norfolk County Council) are preparing to review the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) which was adopted in March 2024.

This upcoming review is prompted by national planning reform and the government's new method for calculating housing need. In addition, the government has introduced a new plan-making system, which changes the way local plans are prepared.

As part of the early preparation stage of reviewing the GNLP, the Greater Norwich authorities are opening a Call for Sites. Landowners, developers, and other interested parties are invited to submit sites that may be suitable for housing, employment or other uses. The Greater Norwich authorities will then assess submissions to identify which sites may be suitable to allocate in the reviewed local plan. This will form the basis of a future public consultation. Please note that many more sites were submitted than were allocated in the GNLP.

The Call for Sites will be open from **9th February 2026 – 23rd March 2026**. As this is evidence gathering rather than a consultation, there is the possibility that the call for sites may reopen later in the year. You can find more information on this evidence collection here: <https://gnlp.oc2.uk/> **The Call for Sites will be live on this webpage from 9am on 9th February 2026.**

Further information about the next stages of the plan review will be provided in due course.

The Greater Norwich Local Plan Review Team.

2025 - 2045
REVIEW OF
The Greater Norwich
Local Plan

E: gnlp@norfolk.gov.uk
T: 01603 306603

--

To see our email disclaimer click here <http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/emaildisclaimer>

RE: Introduction to Taylor Wimpey and proposed residential development in Reedham

From James Wood [REDACTED]
Date Mon 2026-02-23 3:41 PM
To Reedham Parish Clerk <clerk@reedhamparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Cc George Naylor [REDACTED]

Hi Stephanie,

No problem. The current position on this is as follows – which I hope is useful (if not quite a direct answer to the question posed):

- At this early stage, the precise number of homes has not yet been determined and will be informed by ongoing technical work, as well as future engagement with the local planning authority, the parish council, local residents and other stakeholders.
- Initial high-level capacity work suggests that the site may be capable of accommodating development broadly in the region of 100–150 homes; however, this is indicative only and subject to detailed master planning to ensure any proposal responds appropriately to the site's setting and the character of the existing settlement.
- Taylor Wimpey's ambition is to bring forward a high-quality, well-designed scheme that integrates sensitively with its surroundings, delivers a meaningful proportion of affordable housing, and provides areas of open space, landscaping and play that can be enjoyed by both new and existing residents.

Best,

James



James Wood | Associate Director

e. james.wo [REDACTED]

t. [REDACTED]

w. [REDACTED]



From: Reedham Parish Clerk <clerk@reedhamparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 February 2026 11:28
To: James Wood [REDACTED]
Cc: George Naylor [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Introduction to Taylor Wimpey, [REDACTED] residential development in Reedham

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning James

I have been asked by the Council whether Taylor Wimpey are able to confirm the exact number of dwellings in Reedham that they will be seeking planning permission for.

Fw: From the Office of Jerome Mayhew MP (Case Ref: JM4410)

From Cllr Grant Nurden <cllr.Grant.Nurden@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk>

Date Thu 2026-01-29 11:39 AM

To clerk@reedhamparishcouncil.gov.uk (External) <clerk@reedhamparishcouncil.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED]

Hi Stephanie

Please see the correspondence from Jerome regarding the proposed development by Taylor Wimpey.

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Lacey Douglass <lacey.douglass@parliament.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 10:53:35 AM

To: [REDACTED]; Cllr Grant Nurden
<cllr.grant.nurden@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk>

Subject: From the Office of Jerome Mayhew MP (Case Ref: JM4410)

Good morning Grant,

Hope you're ok today.

Below is the response received from NCC regarding school place sufficiency of any housing developments in Reedham and Cantley.

Dear Mr Mayhew

Re: Councillor Grant Nurden, School Place Availability

Thank you for contacting Norfolk County Council on behalf of Cllr Nurden regarding his concerns about the availability of school places in the Cantley and Reedham area if proposed housing developments are approved. I have shared your correspondence with the Place Planning Manager to investigate the matter.

After consulting with the District Planning Authority, we can confirm that there are currently no allocations pending, nor are there any that form part of the local plan which would provide for a development of 300 dwellings in either area. However, there is always the possibility that this could form part of a windfall site, which is not allocated within the local plan. At this point, the education authority would consider the implications and work closely with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to ensure sufficient school places are available for local children.

At the primary phase, the school estate in this part of the county is currently operating with a 17% surplus capacity. The overall number on roll of the schools is significantly below the capacity of the buildings. Based on current conservative estimates of the likely child yield from any housing development of this scale, the overall pupil yield would not pose any difficulty for the schools to meet the demand. It is worth noting that some families might have to secure places slightly further away if the development were to proceed in Cantley. However, this scale of development would not warrant reopening and repurposing the old Cantley school to meet any demand, as it is likely to remain an unviable source of pupils at the primary age.

The secondary sector is in a similar position. There is currently sufficient capacity to meet local demand, and it could accommodate additional demand if this development were ever to be established. Additionally, the local authority has safeguarded some land adjacent to the secondary school that will allow for future expansion if continued development occurs in the area.

I hope this provides some clarity on the current position and reassures both yourself and Cllr Nurden regarding the sufficiency of school places in the Reedham and Cantley areas. Should you wish to discuss the matter further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

*Roxey Bradley-Myhill, Complaints Case Officer
Strategy and Transformation (I and A)*

I've gone back to the two constituents from Reedham who contacted Jerome to share their concerns, to say that planning is not part of Jerome's Parliamentary function and he has no influence over planning decisions. I have also forwarded your council email address to them as their District Councillor.

For one constituent, her points related to the suitability of the Governments proposed planning policy for areas within 800mtrs of a "transport hub", and I have shared these comments with the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government and asked for a response.

The other constituent I have shared a link to Reedham's neighbourhood plan, adopted in 2024.

Please let me know as and when any plans are submitted so I can make Jerome aware. He does know that speculative approaches have been made.

Best wishes

Lacey

Lacey Douglass

Senior Caseworker to Jerome Mayhew MP
Member of Parliament for Broadland and Fakenham
Shadow Minister of State for Transport
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Email – lacey.douglass@parliament.uk
Website - www.jeromemayhew.org.uk

PS: Jerome Mayhew MP sends out regular e-newsletters to keep residents up to date on his work. You can subscribe by filling out the [form on his website](#).

Reedham primary and nursery school

From Beth Spaul <b.spaul@consortiumtrust.org.uk>

Date Sun 2026-03-01 4:36 PM

To clerk@reedhamparishcouncil.gov.uk <clerk@reedhamparishcouncil.gov.uk>; Reedham Parish Council Clerk <reedhampc@outlook.com>

Dear Members of Reedham Parish Council,

I am writing to share with you that I will be stepping down from my role as Academy Head at Reedham Primary and Nursery School at the end of the Spring Term (Easter).

This has been a significant decision for me, as Reedham has been a very special community to serve. However, I will be relocating to Kent after Easter, in order to take up a new professional opportunity and begin the next chapter for my family.

From the start of the Summer Term, the school will be caretaken on an interim basis by Andrew Aalders-Dunthorn (Consortium Trust) to ensure continuity of leadership and day-to-day oversight. The Trust will shortly be advertising the substantive Academy Head post, with the intention of appointing a new Academy Head to take up the position from September 2026.

It has been a privilege to work alongside the Parish Council during my time at Reedham. Your ongoing support for the school and the wider village community is deeply valued, and I am grateful for the partnership we have shared. I hope that this partnership will continue with the next Academy Head.

I will of course ensure that the transition is managed carefully and professionally so that the school continues to move forward positively.

With thanks and warmest wishes,

Beth
Academy Head
Reedham Primary and Nursery School

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

REEDHAM WOODLAND WALK HABITAT RESTORATION 2026

Task/Activity	Timing	Materials	Cost (£)	TCV Days	Rate	Subtotal (£)
INITIAL WORKS						
Coppicing (early clearance)	Jan – Mar	TCV to provide tools/PPE	—	2	£340	680
Invasive species removal (yellow archangel)	Jan – Mar	TCV to provide tools/PPE	—	1	£340	340
WILDLIFE SAFE WORKS						
Litter picking - Volunteers	Apr - Sept		—			—
Install bird and bat boxes	April	Timber for boxes	180	1	£360	360
Botanical survey	May	Expert fees	240			
Planting native wildflower plugs and bulbs	Aug - Sept	Native woodland plugs and bulbs	140	1	£360	360
AUTUMN / WINTER WORKS						
Path clearance (approx. 400m), pulling nettles, rake into habitat piles	Sept – Oct	TCV to provide tools/PPE	—	3	£360	1,080
Clearing scalloped bramble areas near path creating light for wildflowers (leave bramble habitat further back)	Sept – Oct	TCV to provide tools/PPE	—	2	£360	720
Guided walk for public and / or Reedham Primary School	Sept	Expert fees	240			
Coppicing (remaining)	Oct - Nov	TCV to provide tools/PPE	—	2	£360	720
Continuing invasive species removal (yellow archangel)	Oct - Nov	TCV to provide tools/PPE	—	1	£360	360
Planting understory in woodland	Oct – Nov	Native shrub whips. Canes and guards	120	1	£360	360
Completion deadline / review of works / financial reconciliation	Dec					
TOTALS			£920			£4980

Total Cost £5,900

Note: Increase in cost of TCV from April 2026

Big Broadland Litter Pick 2026

From ContractsOfficer <ContractsOfficer@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk>

Date Thu 2026-02-19 5:01 PM

To ContractsOfficer <ContractsOfficer@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk>

1 attachment (1 MB)

Big Broadland Litter Pick_A4_2026.pdf;

Dear Parish Councils,

I am excited to share that The Big Broadland Litter Pick is returning this year, running from **19 February until 31 May 2026**, alongside Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean. This is a fantastic opportunity for community groups to help keep our areas clean and tidy.

Organise a litter pick to be in with a chance to win one of ten £250 prizes to spend on their community in our prize draw! Plus, all participating groups (up to 70 groups) not successful in the prize draw will receive an improved £50 as a thank you for helping to keep local streets, parks, footpaths and green spaces clean, safe and welcoming for everyone.

For the 2026 scheme, we have introduced an online webform for you to register your group's litter pick as part of the Big Broadland Litter pick. By moving away from groups having to email the council to register, hopefully this will make the process easier for all, so we would strongly encourage you to use the online webforms.

Before your litter pick

We'll provide everything you need - litter pickers, hi-vis vests, rubbish sacks, collection of waste, safety guidance and promotional material for the event. Once you've organised a date, chosen an area and gathered your volunteers, please complete the webform on the following page on our website:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/keeping-streets-clean/volunteer-litter-pick-area/big-broadland-litter-pick>

Please select '**Broadland**' for question 1, and '**(Big litter pick) advise us of your planned participation in the Big Litter Pick**' for question 2. Then continue with the form to provide the details of your litter pick.

Once you have completed the webform, the lead contact will receive an email with a suggested check list to help organise the litter pick, guidance for how to safely litter pick, promotional posters and details of the Prize Draw terms and conditions.

After we receive your details, if you require equipment, we will be in touch to confirm its availability. Equipment must be collected and returned to the **Broadland District Council Offices – Horizon Business Centre, Peachman Way, Norwich NR7 0WF**.

After your litter pick

Once you have completed your litter pick, please complete the webform on the following page on our website:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/keeping-streets-clean/volunteer-litter-pick-area/big-broadland-litter-pick>

Again select '**Broadland**' for question 1, and '**(Big Litter Pick) Confirming completion of your participation in the Big Litter Pick**' for question 2. Please note, groups must fill in both forms to be eligible for the participation reward or prize payment.

We'd love for you to share your litter-picking efforts on social media! Please tag **@BroadlandDC on Facebook** or use the hashtag **#BigLitterPick2026**, and we'll share your posts.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

If you no longer wish to receive emails regarding the Big Litter Pick, just let me know.

Kind regards,

James Riseborough

Assistant Contracts Officer

t 01603 430609 (2609) e james.riseborough@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk



How did we do?

Complete our quick survey to help us to improve our services.



Our Broadland and South Norfolk Councils offices are now based at Broadland Business Park in the [Horizon Centre](#). Find out how you can access our services by visiting our website or by calling us on 01508 533633

This email and any attachments are intended for the addressee only and may be confidential. If they come to you in error you must take no action based on them, nor must you copy or show them to anyone. Please advise the sender by replying to this email immediately and then delete the original from your computer. Unless this email relates to Broadland District Council or South Norfolk Council business it will be regarded by the council as personal and will not be authorised by or sent on behalf of the councils. The sender will have sole responsibility for any legal actions or disputes that may arise. We have taken steps to ensure that this email and any attachments are free from known viruses but keeping with good computing practice, you should ensure they are virus free. Emails sent from and received by members and employees of Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council may be monitored.

Norfolk gritting vehicles head out over winter season

Norfolk County Council's winter gritting is underway, with gritters active on A/B roads, key bus routes, and village access roads, using new tech for efficiency. The first runs of the recent winter season (late 2025/early 2026) started as temperatures dropped, utilizing the 58-strong fleet with automated salting to cover 2,200 miles of routes, supported by stocked salt barns and public grit bins.

Updates are posted on their social media using #NorfolkWinter, with a dedicated website for info, and recent campaigns even involved naming the gritters. Residents can also check this year's gritting routes using the online map on the council's website

(<https://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/maps/gritting.aspx>)

If you'd want to report any gritting issues please contact the Report a Highways Problem section on the Norfolk County Council website

(<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/63696/Report-a-highways-problem>)

Norfolk County Council takes first place in the Eastern region in annual Highways and Transport Satisfaction Survey

Norfolk County Council has once again demonstrated strong performance in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public Satisfaction Survey, taking the top spot in the Eastern region for overall satisfaction and second out of 29 county councils across England.

The annual survey, which gathers public views on highways and transport services, saw Norfolk achieve an overall satisfaction score of 48%, well above the national average of 40%.

This marks the 15th consecutive year Norfolk has participated in the survey, and the 7th year in a row that we have come either first or second overall.

Key highlights from this year's results include:

- Top Regional Performer: Norfolk ranked 1st in the Eastern Region for overall satisfaction.
- Some of the best above average score were in our bus services thanks to improvements that have been made as part of our Bus Service Improvement Plan. The 'local bus services' overall category we were 10% above the group average with sub indicators as follows:
 - Public Transport Information (11% above group average)

- Frequency of bus services (9% above group average)
- Ease of access to school / work (6% above group average)
- Condition of highways (8% above group average)

Norfolk secures multi-year funding boost for highways and bus services

Norfolk County Council has welcomed two major funding announcements from government, providing long-term certainty for highways maintenance and bus services for the first time in many years.

The multi-year settlements will allow the council to plan with confidence and deliver programmes of work that join up different funding streams to maximise impact for residents and businesses.

The council has received confirmation of its highway's maintenance funding allocations through to 2029/30. Funding will rise from £56 million in 2025/26 to over £83 million by 2029/30 - a £27 million increase over the period.

Norfolk's future bus grant allocations have also been confirmed, covering both revenue (for services) and capital (for schemes) funding through to 2029/30. Annual funding for bus services across Norfolk will now exceed £15 million.

Norfolk secures more than £12 million for active travel improvements

Norfolk County Council has been awarded more than £12 million in capital funding and nearly £3 million in revenue funding to improve walking, wheeling, and cycling infrastructure across the county from the Department for Transport's Active Travel Capability Fund.

The allocation means Norfolk will receive:

- £3,052,372 per year in capital funding from 2026/27 to 2029/30
- £957,705 per year in revenue funding from 2026/27 to 2028/29

This long-term settlement will provide certainty for planning and delivering projects that make it easier and safer for residents to walk, cycle, and wheel around the county.

Are you ready to take on the 30-day health challenge in 2026?

If you've ever set a New Year's resolution only to see it slip by February, you're not alone - but 2026 could be different.

Norfolk County Council is encouraging residents across Norfolk and Waveney to kick start the new year by signing up to the 30-day health challenge, a simple and supportive way to make positive changes to health using the free online Ready to Change tool.

The challenge is designed to help people make realistic, achievable lifestyle changes over 30 days; a timeframe which experts say is far more manageable than aiming for drastic, long-term change all at once.

Ready to Change also signposts to lots of local organisations which can help you achieve your goals, including free weight management, smoking cessation and fitness groups.

Visit www.readytochange.co.uk to find out more about the 30-day health challenge, take health quizzes and sign up for expert health guidance and support to get you the success you deserve in 2026.

How do I get involved in the 30-day health challenge?

Step 1: Visit the Ready to Change website and choose one of the following health challenges:

- Aim for a healthier weight
- Drink less alcohol
- Quit smoking
- Eat more healthily
- Be more active

Step 2: Sign up to receive free weekly expert health guidance, tips and support by email over the next 30 days.

Connect to Work to support more than 4,000 people facing barriers to employment

People in Norfolk with disabilities and long-term health issues that are keeping them out of employment are to receive support from the newly launched Connect to Work programme.

The scheme aims to build on the achievements of the previous Working Well Norfolk and Local Supported Employment projects and reduce the county's higher than average economically inactive population.

In Norfolk, 109,100 (20.6%) of individuals aged 16-65 were classed as economically inactive in 2024 - 1.5% higher than post-covid - and 30,100 (27.7%) were classed as having long-term sickness, compared with 23.7% in 2019. This is higher than the East of England figure of 25.9% and the UK average of 27.2%.

Connect to Work is aimed at people aged 18 and over from Norfolk (and 16-17 in some cases) from a wide range of cohorts including people with mental and physical health challenges, learning disabilities, neurodiversity, care leavers, carers, military veterans, ex-offenders, the homeless, refugees and victims of domestic abuse.

People who are in work but at risk of having to give up due to their health condition or other complex challenges will also be assisted.

To find out how to access support via Connect to Work, please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/workingwell or email us on connecttowork@norfolk.gov.uk

Made Smarter funding for region's manufacturing businesses set to double

Advanced manufacturing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the East of England are set to receive more support to grow and innovate after the Government agreed to double its funding for the Made Smarter Adoption (MSA) programme.

The programme will deliver funding, impartial advice, a roadmap from digital specialists, and leadership and management development programmes to upskill workforces. Norfolk County Council will also be responsible for delivering and processing 48 match-funded grants delivered up to £20k.

A successful pilot has seen Norfolk County Council lead a £1.2m programme in 2025/26, supporting more than 88 SMEs in the region with digital support and roadmaps for implementation, leadership and management, organisational change. Funding for a £2.4m programme for 2026/27, with the potential for a significant increase in future years, has now been confirmed - subject to Government funding and performance.

Norfolk County Council's cabinet agreed the funding and to the council being the accountable body for the programme when it met on 5th January 2026.

The East of England Made Smarter Adoption Programme Board is made up of upper tier local authorities from Bedfordshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Suffolk and

Norfolk, and is led by a Chair and Deputy Chair from industry, working closely with local authorities, academia, Make UK and the Department for Business and Trade (DBT).

New specialist fire service vehicles for Norfolk

Two new state-of-the-art specialist vehicles are being delivered into Norfolk later this month, leading the way in technology and ability across the fire and rescue sector in the UK.

The water and foam carriers can hold and pump 13,500L of water, 1,500L of foam concentrate, making them among the largest and most capable vehicles with specialist equipment to enhance firefighting operations.

Built by Emergency One in Scotland, the cost of the two water carriers is £850,000 and replace two ageing and smaller carriers which are 23 and 24 years old.

Government decision on county council elections

On 22nd January, the Government announced that it had decided that this May's county council elections would not go ahead, so that the council can focus on local government reorganisation and devolution. This accompanies their decision to cancel the Mayoral Elections scheduled for May as well.

The Council agreed to delay the 2025 elections in order to secure the Government's devolution deal, based on the promise that a Mayor would be elected in 2026. That timetable was changed without warning in November 2025, delaying the Mayoral election until May 2028, despite the significant work already done locally to prepare. With hindsight, it is clear that the 2025 county elections could have gone ahead without affecting devolution. Instead, the Government has chosen to prioritise reorganisation over local democracy, leaving councils to absorb reputational damage and residents without proper electoral accountability through no fault of their own.

Norfolk's bus service improvements deliver record growth and faster journeys

Norfolk County Council's ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) has transformed public transport across the county, driving a 26% increase in passenger numbers since 2022 and making Norfolk a leading national example for sustainable travel.

A paper discussed at the council's Infrastructure and Development Committee on 22nd January highlights what has been delivered thanks to the £65.45 million secured for Norfolk from the Department for Transport. That includes;

- New and enhanced bus services on more than 44 routes across Norfolk, including more evening and Sunday services
- Affordable fares: capped single fares in key towns and multi-operator ticketing
- Greener fleet: 75 zero-emission buses in Norwich and 24 more electric buses coming in 2026
- Improved passenger experience: real-time information, safer waiting areas, next-stop announcements and real-time information on more buses.

Not only are we seeing record-setting and increasing numbers of passengers but customer satisfaction has also risen to 87%, bucking national trends and reinforcing Norfolk's approach to improvements in bus travel across the county.

Norfolk gritting vehicles continue to head out over winter season

Norfolk County Council's winter gritting is well underway, with gritters active on A/B roads, key bus routes, and village access roads, using new tech for efficiency. The first runs of the recent winter season (late 2025/early 2026) started as temperatures dropped, utilizing the 58-strong fleet with automated salting to cover 2,200 miles of routes, supported by stocked salt barns and public grit bins.

Updates are posted on their social media using #NorfolkWinter, with a dedicated website for info, and recent campaigns even involved naming the gritters. Residents can also check this year's gritting routes using the online map on the council's website

(<https://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/maps/gritting.aspx>)

If you'd want to report any gritting issues please contact the Report a Highways Problem section on the Norfolk County Council website

(<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/63696/Report-a-highways-problem>)

Norfolk County Council Responds to Growing Pressures on SEND Services

Norfolk County Council continues to work tirelessly to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), despite growing demand and sustained pressure on local services. The Council remains committed to improving outcomes for families, investing in local provision and working with schools, health partners and parents to meet increasingly complex needs.

However, the scale of the challenge facing SEND services is being driven by national policy decisions and long-standing underfunding. Successive Governments have expanded statutory duties on councils without providing the funding or system reform needed to deliver them sustainably. As a result, local authorities like Norfolk are left managing rising demand, workforce shortages and significant financial risk, while responsibility for fixing a broken national SEND system is effectively pushed down to the local level.

Norfolk County Council has repeatedly called for meaningful reform and fair, long-term funding to address the root causes of the SEND crisis. Without decisive action from Government, councils will continue to be placed in an impossible position, expected to deliver for families while operating within a system that is not fit for purpose.

Every 1p Rise in National Living Wage Costs Norfolk Council's Adult Social Care £300,000

Norfolk County Council's Adult Social Services face significant and immediate cost pressures from changes to the National Living Wage, with every 1p increase adding around **£300,000** to the council's annual costs. These rising costs reflect the council's responsibility to fund care for some of the county's most vulnerable residents, where staffing makes up the largest proportion of provider expenditure.

While fair pay for care workers is essential and strongly supported, the scale and speed of national wage increases continue to place major financial strain on local authorities. Without matching increases in Government funding, councils are left to absorb these costs within already stretched budgets, reducing flexibility and increasing pressure on services at a time of growing demand.

15% uplift to foster carer pay proposed in transformation programme for council foster carers

Foster carers in Norfolk are set to benefit from a 15% uplift in their pay, as Norfolk County Council looks to invest £1.5m annually in its fostering service in a bid to support more children in care to live with families.

Norfolk's Cabinet met on Monday 26th January to discuss the proposal, which is part of a three-year transformation programme aimed at recognising the contribution of foster carers and the vital role they play in supporting children in care to flourish.

The proposals include:

- A 15% uplift in fees for mainstream and kinship carers
- Additional uplifts for mainstream carers looking after children aged 10 and older
- Greater rewards for long service
- An expanded therapeutic support team
- Enhanced practical support

The proposals follow extensive engagement with carers as part of efforts to improve support and recruit more carers.

There is a national shortage of foster carers, including in Norfolk where there are several children currently living in residential care who could thrive with a fostering family. Research shows that living in a family environment is less traumatic and results in a much better outcome for a child in care. It also reduces costs for the local authority. A

residential care placement in Norfolk costs nearly £300,000 per year, compared with £45,000 per year for a foster home. An average of 5 children per week come into care in Norfolk.

Council to consider additional investment of £35m in Independent Living Programme

Norfolk County Council is considering investing a further £35 million towards its Independent Living Housing Programme.

Since its launch in November 2018, the programme has contributed capital funding towards 603 high-quality, modern apartments designed for people aged 55 and over who want to stay independent in their local communities in later life.

Rising construction costs and new regulatory requirements have impacted delivery within the original £29 million capital budget. To enable delivery of the remaining 532 homes by the programme, Cabinet is being asked to approve the additional funding. These homes will help save the council money every year by avoiding the need for people to move into residential care.

Identified demand for Independent Living housing in Norfolk reflects the ageing population, increasing prevalence of disability, and the growing number of residents wanting more independence in later life and seeking alternatives to traditional residential care.

Cabinet considers future of care homes

A company that runs good and outstanding care facilities is interested in buying Norfolk County Council's care company and 20 homes.

If Norfolk County Council agrees a deal with Stow Healthcare, residents of the homes would continue to live there, and existing Norse Care staff would move to the new owner.

The council launched a review of its care estate last year, as its contract with Norse Care Ltd was due to end in March 2026.

Since the contract started in 2011, people's care needs have become more complex and most of the 20 care homes now require modernisation. Three of the homes have closed already but are being included in the proposed sale.

Body worn cameras aid safety in Norfolk

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has rolled out 160 new Axon body-worn cameras across stations in Norfolk to help improve safety and decision-making at incidents. Cameras have been issued to all fire appliances and operational officers, as well as to protection and prevention teams, fire investigation officers, the training school, and Trading Standards officers.

The Axon devices provide live streaming, location data and two-way communication, allowing footage to be shared in real time with control room staff during emergency incidents. This supports quicker, better-informed decisions, improves firefighter safety by identifying risks earlier, and helps coordinate responses with partner agencies.

The cameras were introduced in December and have already recorded nearly 100 hours of footage across more than 500 video clips.



The countryside charity
Norfolk

Telephone [REDACTED]
Email:
planning@cprenorfolk.org.uk

www.cprenorfolk.org.uk

Working locally and nationally to
promote, protect and enhance a
beautiful and thriving countryside
for everyone's benefit.

March, 2026

NPPF Review – Consultation response

Dear Madam or Sir,

CPRE Norfolk welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework.

CPRE Norfolk recognises the urgent national need for high-quality housing, renewable energy infrastructure, and economic resilience. However, we emphasise that these objectives must be achieved in a way that safeguards Norfolk's countryside, landscape character, biodiversity, food-producing agricultural land and rural communities. National planning policy must ensure that development is genuinely sustainable, protects environmental assets, and reflects local capacity and character.

This submission is structured around CPRE Norfolk's established position statements and areas of policy concern.

1. Housing Targets, Land Supply and Delivery

CPRE Norfolk strongly supports a genuine brownfield-first approach to housing delivery. Previously developed land within existing settlements should be prioritised and fully utilised before greenfield or countryside sites are considered. National policy should focus on the efficient use of land already allocated and brownfield opportunities rather than encouraging large-scale Greenfield expansion that permanently alters landscape character. Without firm policy direction, pressure for speculative development in rural areas will continue.

The revised NPPF should go beyond encouragement and introduce binding expectations that previously developed land is prioritised before Greenfield or countryside sites are released.

We are concerned that reliance on five-year land supply requirements, without mechanisms to ensure the build-out of existing permissions, encourages unnecessary land release and land banking. This encourages speculative applications and unnecessary countryside loss. The NPPF should promote phasing, delivery incentives and better use of existing allocations. National and local planning policy should require that existing housing allocations in current plans are built out before new allocations can be designated. Otherwise the NPPF merely functions to facilitate site allocations. Allocating additional sites does not deliver additional housing of the right type in the right place.

The new methodology for calculating housing requirement which has increased housing targets in Norfolk has resulted in many more sites being allocated for housing but it has not accelerated the rate of house building. Developers only

build what they can sell. Taylor Wimpey has just received planning permission for a 3,850 housing scheme in Norfolk. The company, as reported in the Eastern Daily Press (EDP), has said that they will only build 100 houses per year on that site and it will take them at least 30 years to complete the development. House builders only build what they can sell and we repeat the point that making new allocations does not facilitate the delivery of additional housing. Developers just cherry pick the most attractive sites often in Greenfield locations and countryside is sacrificed.

The revised NPPF should not be phrased in such a way that lays the blame for the failure to deliver new housing on local planning authorities. It is developers who determine the rate at which sites are built out but when delivery rates fall short of the required rate it is the local planning authority who are penalised through the imposition of a 20% buffer. This is an absurd policy it merely increases the number of land allocations made, it does not result in house builders building more houses. The phasing of development whereby developers are required to build out existing allocations first is a much more effective tool to ensure the delivery of housing.

CPRE Norfolk does not support the promotion of new towns or large new settlements in Norfolk where existing Local Plan allocations already place significant pressure on infrastructure and the countryside.

Affordable housing policy must reflect local incomes and needs, particularly in rural Norfolk where house prices are far beyond the reach of many residents. Definitions of affordability should be locally grounded and include a stronger focus on social rent.

2. Countryside, Green Belt and Landscape Protection

Norfolk's countryside is not a reserve for unmet housing targets. Incremental as well as cumulative development poses a significant threat to Norfolk's rural character and must be recognised in national policy.

We are concerned that poorly defined concepts such as "grey belt" risk weakening long-standing protections and create uncertainty that could be exploited in speculative applications. The NPPF should clearly reaffirm that landscape character and environmental capacity are central to planning decisions and that national policy does not override place-specific environmental considerations.

CPRE Norfolk supports strong and explicit protection for rural landscapes, tranquility, biodiversity and agricultural land and asks that development should avoid unnecessary intrusion into rural areas.

Landscape character, tranquillity and agricultural value are material considerations

3. Renewable Energy and Solar Development

CPRE Norfolk supports renewable energy as part of the transition to net zero, but stresses that location and scale are critical. We advocate a rooftop-first and brownfield-first approach to solar energy. Large industrial-scale solar farms on greenfield sites, particularly on best and most versatile agricultural land, create conflicts with food security, landscape protection and rural character and should not be supported in the NPPF.

Furthermore land that is of a lower agricultural value, for example the poorer sandy soil of The Brecks, is often of high landscape value. These landscapes should also be protected by the NPPF.

The NPPF should protect all countryside and landscapes from the impact of renewable energy schemes. Research by the CPRE carried out by the UCL Energy Institute, has shown that the solar element required for the attainment of net zero by 2050 can all be harvested from roofs, artificial surfaces and brownfield locations.

Tall three blades wind turbines negatively impact landscape character over large areas of countryside far beyond the location of the turbines. The rapid development of new wind harvesting technology offers a far better way forward for the employment of onshore wind. Therefore the NPPF should discourage the use of tall three blade wind turbines for onshore wind projects and encourage the use of the new technology.

4. Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure

CPRE Norfolk insists that new development must be aligned with sustainable transport provision to reduce car dependency and emissions. Housing growth in locations without realistic alternatives to private car use undermines climate objectives and increases rural isolation.

The NPPF should require clear evidence that infrastructure, services and sustainable transport options will be delivered alongside development.

Greater emphasis should be given to the conversion of redundant office and retail space in urban areas to residential usage because this will reduce car use and take advantage existing infrastructure.

5. Local Democracy and Community Engagement

CPRE Norfolk emphasises the importance of meaningful local engagement in planning decisions. We are concerned that planning reforms risk weakening meaningful local engagement. National policy should support, not weaken, the ability of local planning authorities and communities to shape development according to local character and environmental constraints. Community input remains a central part of decision-making and requires backing through national policies.

In particular CPRE Norfolk regrets that the NPPF footnotes that gave local communities a meaningful say as to whether renewable energy schemes can happen in their area were removed in a previous review of the NPPF shortly after the election of the present government in 2024. We ask that these footnotes are reinstated in the NPPF.

Conclusion

CPRE Norfolk supports sustainable development that meets local need while safeguarding the countryside and rural communities. We urge that the revised NPPF:

- Embeds a firm brownfield-first approach,
- Encourages the build-out of existing permissions before new land release,
- Strengthens protection for countryside and agricultural land,
- Promotes rooftop-first renewables and gives meaningful protection to landscape and countryside from the threat posed by NSIP solar schemes and onshore wind projects,
- Aligns development with infrastructure and sustainable transport,
- Respects local democratic planning.

With these safeguards, the NPPF can deliver necessary development without sacrificing the landscapes and rural qualities that define Norfolk.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Adamski

CPRE Norfolk, Planning Officer