

WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

JUNE MEETING 2026

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

It has been reported in the press that a government minister went against Whitehall officials' advice in imposing a three unitary structure for Norfolk under **Local Government Reorganisation**. South Norfolk Council (SNC) have submitted a protective claim to challenge the process involved in the decision. SNC are not alone, authorities across the country are issuing legal challenges. However, until any outcome is known, SNC officers are acting with prudence and continue with plans for the new structure and elections taking place next year.

SNC have a new Chair, Cllr Kathryn Cross. Kathryn has declared her time as the **Year of the Volunteer** to highlight the vital role that volunteers play in serving our communities. Each Councillor has been asked to nominate a volunteer group on which South Norfolk Council will shine a light. In addition, Kathryn will try to meet each group nominated during the year. There are so many wonderful volunteer groups in our Ward. I would like to nominate many, but I can choose only one. It will be very difficult decision.

Changes are coming to the **planning process**. The government are largely removing the right of members to call in an application for decision at committee. There will remain a small number of situations where applications will go to committee such as those having an impact on employment. Another change is that applications for housing more than 150 homes where the council is minded to refuse, must go to the Secretary of State for the final decision. This does not appear to align well with the concept of greater local democracy.

SNC are looking to introduce a '**Library of Things**' programme. This allows people to rent everyday items rather than buy them. It started as a grassroots experiment in 2014 in South London and has helped kickstart a global movement. Town and parish councils will be contacted to identify suitable locations for roll out.

Last week, I attended a visit to the waste vehicle assembly plant at Worksop and saw our food waste recycling vehicles being completed and receiving their branding. The weekly **food waste recycling** programme remains on schedule for roll out from next month. Bin caddies and guidance will be delivered to households during the phased roll out, and a social media campaign will soon begin.

There was a reported fire in a recycling centre in Norfolk. While this was not one used by SNC, it is important to remind people not to put **batteries** in their waste bins as these can be the cause of fires. Please take them to somewhere which collects and safely disposes or book a kerbside collection from SNC: <https://orlo.uk/u5H3d>.

There is to be another round of **Nature Conservation Funding** for community projects. Maybe Your neighbours at Harleston Greenspace CIC have been invited to give a presentation on their Magpies Meadow project at a workshop in early July. Is there an opportunity for a project in Wortwell this time?

I will be holding my surgery on 11 July at Harleston Information Plus on Exchange Street in Harleston at 10:00. So, if you have any questions, it would be great to see you there.

Cllr Trevor Graham
Member for Harleston
South Norfolk Council