

WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER MEETING 2024

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

I have been addressing many concerns raised by residents. From potholes to conservation issues, overhanging trees, and blocked drains. There is a wide range of issues. I appreciate that it can be very confusing with three layers of Council all with different roles and responsibilities. If you would like to discuss your concerns, please get in touch with me. I may not have the answer myself, but I may be able to find the person who does. I will try to help.

While not within Wortwell, it is nearby and within our Ward. The Heritage Open Days programme has completed, and feedback forms are currently being collated by the national team. This may be the largest collective event put together within Harleston. The Round Table raised £161 at a quiz evening and Ladies Circle raised £261 at a bingo evening which they kindly donated to the Historical Society to help cover costs this year and contribute towards funding another programme for 2025. The large number of participating voluntary groups and organisations is a great advert for our community spirit. Legacy walks and trails will be available for future visitors. South Norfolk Council are proud to have supported Harleston Heritage Open Days. I wonder whether there is an opportunity to include Wortwell next year.

I gave an interview as part of a video being created by the Diocese of Norwich to promote nature recovery. This will highlight the concept supported by Wortwell which has now progressed to the Our Nature Recovery movement endorsed by South Norfolk. Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots parish council passed a resolution for their own community based nature recovery and they have joined the movement with a page on the collective website. I provided a short update as part of a Nature Recovery presentation in St John's Church, Harleston on Saturday.

The UK has set ambitious climate change targets to achieve net zero carbon emission. A new utility-scale solar and battery energy storage system project is proposed on land near Long Stratton. This could provide approximately 500 megawatts of solar energy generation, supplying enough clean and affordable electricity to power approximately 115,000 homes. The developers have set up a project website which will be updated as more information becomes available, including details about upcoming engagement and consultation opportunities. The local community and interested individuals can register their details through their project website www.eastpyesolar.co.uk if they would like to be updated.

Councillors who sit on the Development Management Committee were invited to visit development sites across the district to reflect on the success or otherwise in design terms of those schemes. This provided an opportunity to discuss specific items of design in the real world.

All Councillors have an annual budget of £1,000 to spend on projects within their wards. Last year I was able to assist the Harleston Players, Wortwell Bowl Club, and the Friends of Harleston Primary School. I am still to receive any request for support this year. I encourage people to have a look at the guidelines:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/downloads/file/1491/members-ward-ground-rules> and get in touch if appropriate. I would like to help.

I am taking my Councillor surgery on the road and will hold my next surgery on Saturday 12 October at the Wortwell Community Centre between 10:00 and 12:00. Should this prove popular I hope to make this a regular feature along with visits to Needham to be better able to talk with residents across the whole Ward.

Cllr Trevor Graham
South Norfolk Council, Member for Harleston