

# **WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **OCTOBER MEETING 2024**

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

South Norfolk Council have listed the Wortwell Bell as an asset of community value. The listing will last until October 2029. Therefore if the pub is put up for sale before then, the community will be given an opportunity to purchase through the Community Right to Bid process. Let us hope that there is a future for the Wortwell Bell.

I gave a short presentation at a Nature Recovery seminar at St Johns Church on 29 September hosted by Harleston's Future. There were suggestions which I have been able to take to South Norfolk Council. In particular, a checklist to get young people involved; an offer from a local Men's Shed to build homes for wildlife; and a suggestion for a model biodiversity policy and a set of guidelines for parish councils. The people of our Ward are again leading from the front.

I opened a very well attended and supported post Heritage Open Days meeting in the Swan Hotel. Katie Ellis, the Event Promoter for Norfolk came along and gave her support to the work of our community. Feedback has been received from the national office with overwhelming compliments for the events. Groups are working on legacy to attract visitors to the town and there is an appetite to create a community programme again next year. Maybe Wortwell could be involved.

This is a time of public involvement and consultation. A public consultation on the proposed solar park and battery storage facilities around Long Stratton will run from Wednesday 23 October to Friday 6 December 2024. Harleston Town Council's proposals for reconfiguration of the community building were presented last week and are available online for public comment.

There is recognition that improvements could be made the planning compliance and enforcement process. A new Planning Compliance Manager has been appointed and an Enforcement Oversight Board has been established. The aim of the Board is to see improvement in the service area and an improved awareness by Members of the enforcement processes. There are five members on the Board, both Cllr James Eddy and I have been appointed, and I have been selected as Vice Chairman.

I hope that the VESPA party was a success, unfortunately I was unable to attend as I had another engagement at Norwich Castle. There are major changes underway to the recreate the original Norman layout to Norwich Castle through an £18m project mainly funded National Lottery Heritage Fund. As a member of the Norwich Area Museums Committee, I was fortunate to attend a viewing of the JMW Turner and changing visions of landscape exhibition last Friday. The exhibitions are fantastic and I wholeheartedly recommend a visit. I look forwards to the full restoration being open to the public, and I will continue to support the VESPA project.

The Council have released their Winter Pressures Fuel Grant to aid communities to support themselves with a focus on supporting the more vulnerable residents in their local area. I have been able to help various local groups who are looking to provide warm rooms over the winter coordinate their plans with a view of providing a consolidated calendar of days and maximise their grant applications, not just to SNC but to other providers.

Following an excursion to Wortwell to take my Councillor surgery on the road I will return to Harleston Information Plus on Exchange Street in Harleston on 9 November between 10:00 and 11:00. I hope to see you there.

Cllr Trevor Graham  
South Norfolk Council, Member for Harleston