

WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL
FEBRUARY MEETING 2025
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Funding from central government is being reduced and there are demands for District Councils to provide even more services, such as food waste collections. Despite the challenges, South Norfolk Council have set the council tax for next year as £175 for a band D property, an increase of only £5. In recognition of the work involved in preparing for local government re-organisation, a reserve fund has been set up. The first requirement is to present our interim plan with a deadline of 21 March.

You may have seen references to new towns in the local press. South Norfolk Council have put forwards our district as a potential site. We have requested that if such a settlement is built that it would feed into existing housebuilding targets and negate the need for more homes to be added at other south Norfolk towns. A decision on the sites chosen will be made in the summer.

I have been able to help the Harleston and District Historical Society with money from my Members Ward Allowance to buy a new projector and display boards. My allowance has again all been used this year, but a new round of funding will soon be open when I hope to be able to help more local community groups. I have already received a request, so if your group would like some help, please get in touch with me.

It was an honor to open a meeting hosted by the Historical Society to discuss a community wide program during the September Heritage Open Days. This is a national event providing a fantastic opportunity for widespread publicity for our town. A great turnout of 28 local groups raised imaginative suggestions including ideas to showcase the Community Nature Recovery work of our town and nearby villages. The 2024 programme was a huge success, would the people of Wortwell be interested in taking part in the 2025 version?

Remaining on the topic of nature recovery, South Norfolk Council have agreed to further progress the concept. There is to be a new scheme to help individuals and small organisations to promote nature recovery in their communities. Also, there is to be a new 'Conservation Fund' for small and medium scale projects of up to £10,000. I hope to propose a local project and bring more money to our local area.

I will hold my next surgery on 8 March at Harleston Information Plus on Exchange Street in Harleston at 10:00. It would be great to see you there.

Cllr Trevor Graham
Member for Harleston
South Norfolk Council