

District Councillor Report – March 2025 – James Eddy

The latest in a series of so called ‘Extraordinary General Meetings’ of South Norfolk Council took place recently to address the ongoing plans for Local Government Reorganisation. Interestingly, there was largely consensus as all but one of the councillors present voted in favour of the two unitary proposal, which would see the South Norfolk District combined with Broadland, Norwich, Yarmouth and part of North Norfolk. While far from perfect, I voted in favour of the proposal as it seems to be the best option for prioritising services and not costing constituents more.

Of course, it should be noted that the three unitary model that has Norwich as a separate authority on extended boundaries remains the favoured option among the other Norfolk district councils and is therefore probably most likely to be adopted as it stands. Still, there is a long road ahead so we will have to wait and see what happens.

Closer to home, I am happy to report that some of my member’s ward grant money went to Exchange 2 and allowed them to buy a new pool/table tennis table for the cabin on the recreation ground. As I’ve reported before, Exchange 2 are doing good and important work helping to socialise the young people of the ward so I was especially pleased to be able to help them in this small way.

On a different note, I thought it would be a good idea to share a link to the online consultation that is currently taking place regarding Land Use in England that is running until April 25th. As much as anything, this consultation is about balancing, long term food security, planning developments, and targets on nature and climate that deliver multiple benefits and support economic growth. This cannot and should not be done without the knowledge and experience of people living in rural areas and in particular farmers. After all, these are the people who manage much of the land upon which our food security is dependent.

I know it is easy to be cynical about something like this but I do think that if you have strong opinions about the use of land locally then it is better to use the opportunity to share your voice. So, if you or someone you know would be interested in filling out the Land Use Consultation the link to follow is: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use-framework/land-use-consultation/consultation/subpage.2025-01-21.3793375962/>

Alternatively, you can email me at james.eddy@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk and I can send you the direct link that way. Of course, if there are any other issues you want my help with then you can contact that email address or pop in to see me at my next councillor surgery at Harleston Information Plus on the last Saturday of every month between 10am and 12.

All the best,

James