

WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

JANUARY MEETING 2026

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Broadland and South Norfolk **Business Awards**. The finalists for 2026 have been announced: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/business/broadland-and-south-norfolk-business-awards/finalists-2026>. A Boutique from Harleston is in the final. Now the countdown begins to the grand awards ceremony on 18 March.

The **Help Hub van** continues to visit towns and villages across the district, attending community events and offering support, advice and activities throughout the year. The van is a confidential space where you can talk one-on-one with a member of the Help Hub team. The van was in Harleston today.

Recycling. All councils are required to collect domestic food waste by April this year. This is a huge undertaking which will require new vehicles and bins. Currently about 40% of residual waste is food, so you will see that finding a way to separate and process food waste will substantially reduce the residual waste. SNC are on track to meet the deadlines.

I have downloaded the new SNC Bin Collection app and thoroughly recommend you do the same. It not only gives you your bin collection dates, but information on what can and cannot be recycled, and latest information on waste collections.

Members Ward Allowance. I was able to give the Harleston Players £300 from my allowance for a community play based on the Waveney Valley Line. I still have £450 remaining, so if you know of any group that would like help, please ask them to get in touch. In some instance we can even help town and parish councils directly.

Environment. You may have received an invitation to a 'Sustainable Communities Conference' event being held by Adrian Ramsey MP on Friday 13 March at the Corn Hall in Diss. One of the topics under discussion is nature recovery. This will include the community concept pioneered in our Ward. I am currently scheduled to give a brief update on our local work and to sit on the panel to field questions. It would be great to see a representative from Needham Parish Council at the event.

Elections and Democracy. You will have seen the recent announcement that the planned Norfolk County Council elections have again been postponed. This means that the County Councillors will now serve at least six years when they were only elected for four years. This was a decision ultimately taken by Government but took into consideration the views of the County Council. This postponement comes on top of that for the Mayoral elections which were scheduled for May. These can be seen as expedient to avoid unnecessary costs, or an erosion of the right of people to have their say. It is for everyone to form their own opinion.

I am often asked about the various elections. There are so many that it can be very confusing. Currently, there are to be Unitary Authority elections next year, and the Mayoral elections in to be 2028. The District and County elections are now both scheduled for next year, the same time as the Unitary Authority. However, the plan was for the new Unitary Authority to run in parallel with the existing County and District Councils during a transition. So, there is no guarantee that this will not change.

I will hold my surgery on 14 February 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