

County Councillor Report

Stoke Holy Cross Parish Council 23rd July 2026

Local Government Reform

A judicial review has been submitted by the County Council in response to the proposed reorganisation of Norfolk. This is the first step in a legal process challenging the legitimacy of the Government's decision making. South Norfolk is also understood to be applying for a judicial review.

The Government's proposals would replace the current two-tier system of local government in Norfolk, comprising the county council alongside district, city and borough councils, with a new structure of 3 unitary authorities. Under the plan, Stoke Holy Cross would form part of East Norfolk. Elections to the new authorities are proposed for May 2027. This requires Parliamentary approval, which is expected later this year or early in 2027.

Large Solar Farms

The Leader of the County Council has written to Ed Milliband, Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero, warning that the council will make an application for judicial review (a legal challenge) if approval is given for any of the large NSIP solar energy projects in the County – East Pye, Tasway, the Drovers and High Grove.

Children's Services SEND support plan

Norfolk has published a three-year plan to improve support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The plan responds to a Government request for all areas to submit a Local SEND Reform Plan by 19 June. It focuses on support that can be introduced now, ahead of national legislation which will bring further change. If approved by Government, the plan could see 90%, around £195m, of the council's historic Dedicated Schools Grant (SEND) deficit repaid. [Norfolk sets out three-year plan to improve SEND support - Norfolk County Council](#)

Big Norfolk Holiday Club

Active Norfolk, on behalf of the County Council, is providing lots of children's activities across the County over the summer holidays. These activities are free of charge for children and young people aged four (if already attending school) to 16, eligible for means-tested free school meals. Non-eligible children also able to access some activities for a small charge. Activities include the Time Out Summer Holiday Club, run by Time Childcare at Poringland Village Hall. Information and booking at <https://eequ.org/bignorfolkholidayfun>.

NCC Chief Executive

The Chief Executive of the County Council has left his post after 7.5 years of service. The Council has appointed Kat Hulatt, the current Monitoring Officer, as Interim Chief Executive, prior to making a permanent appointment.

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