

## Report of the Six Strategic Group March 2026

The meeting opened with a report from Martyn Hooton, Environment Portfolio Holder who provided an overview of South Norfolk's Food waste collection service. The group was told that the new service would help cut down food waste and left overs would be transformed into energy to feed into the National Grid. Central Government has also provided additional funding to help councils set up the new recycling and food waste collection services.

There has been a slight delay in implementing this initiative but it is hoped that the collection will begin from 27<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Each household will receive both a kitchen caddy and a kerbside caddy, (examples of both were shown) along with a supply of food liners to keep caddies clean. Collections would take place weekly and additional liners would be available to re-order online. Flat complexes do pose a problem at the moment but that is still being reviewed.

The routes taken by the new food waste lorries are still being addressed to provide efficient collection.

An update was also given on the new South Norfolk App which gives information and alerts about bin collection days and the ability to book a slot at the recycling centres, there is also information about how a collection from the kerb side for small electrical appliances can be booked.

The last item Martyn discussed was the Big South Norfolk Litter Pick initiative which is taking place again this year. Each group that enters would receive £50 for taking part and would be entered into a draw where 5 groups will benefit from receiving £500 to spend in their community.

### **District report**

South Norfolk Council have launched the South Norfolk In Bloom Fund closing date for applications 19th April. Applicants can request up to £1 per resident, with a requirement for at least 50% match funding to support community groups brighten up their communities

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation was discussed and Lisa Neal reported that assets and services are expected to be devolved, with some parishes possibly forming clusters. Larger parishes may take on additional responsibilities, such as verge cutting, and may work jointly with neighbouring villages. How would parish's feel about taking on more? One possibility of a larger unitary authority was that parishes may feel they would become a small cog in a much larger wheel, which could present difficulties in being heard. It was suggested that parishes could informally cluster together and take on additional responsibilities, creating potential opportunities for shared services between the neighbouring parishes, especially if money was

devolved from the unitary authority to support this. The Six Strategic Group may become a forum to facilitate this. (she said)

### **Trowse**

The Council had taken over the running of the Village Hall, which requires a significant amount of refurbishment to be undertaken. They are in discussions with Crown Point about taking on the disused MUGA which will need a lot of investment to bring it back to a useful community asset. A 3<sup>rd</sup> party has also joined in who wants to develop the area by adding floodlights which is causing some concerns from those residents bordering the MUGA.

### **Caistor St Edmund & Bixley**

It was reported that the first stage of the Village Hall refurbishment is now complete and the building is ready for use. The Parish Council had also acquired a new SAM2 and bus shelter.

The planning application for 180 houses and a country park off Caistor Lane may have to be re-designed following concerns from HSE about a large gas pipe which went through the land where houses and a school were proposed.

### **Poringland**

It was noted that the new Clerk, Ben Bethell, had been tasked with taking forward the Community Land Project and is progressing the commissioning of works for the skateboard park and the allotments. The orchard had also now been planted. The Parish Council had also brought its grounds maintenance work in-house and has appointed Rangers to undertake this work. Trowse reported that they had also brought their grounds maintenance in-house and suggested that sharing equipment/services could offer potential cost savings.

### **Framingham Earl**

Reported that a planning application had been received which crosses the boundary with Poringland for a proposed development on land East of Bungay Road (by the Octagon Barn) for 160 houses. The two councils had raised issues regarding Highways access and this may prove a significant hurdle for the developers to overcome.

They also noted that Framingham Earl had recently written to Anglian Water regarding leaks on Long Rd and had received a response indicating that Anglian Water had plans to replace the water mains from the B1332 roundabout to Pettingales in Stoke Holy Cross in 2026/27.

Date of next meeting 28<sup>th</sup> September 2026 7.00pm