

Stoke Holy Cross - District Councillors Report 23rd July 2026

Member Ward Grants

Requests for support with small projects (typically up to £1,000 per project) to benefit the local community can be made to your District Councillors. Please note funding for 2026/27 is largely allocated.

Communities Action Fund (CAF) and Communities Facilities Grant (CFG)

Much larger grants (potentially up to £40,000) are also available from the District Council through CAF and CFG grants. Applications, via your District Councillor, are now open. The closing date is 16th August.

In Bloom Grant

Applications are being accepted until 15th November 2026 for grants to enhance the visual appeal of their communities, encourage the growing of produce, and promote wildlife and biodiversity. Grants to any parish are limited to a total of £1 per resident and must have matched funding.

Nature Conservation Fund

Applications can be made for grants of up to £10,000 for projects which support nature recovery and improve or help connect residents to accessible greenspaces. The scheme is open to Town and Parish Councils, community groups, charities and schools in South Norfolk. Applications close on Friday 16th September. <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/environment/nature-conservation-fund>

Community & Open Spaces Grant

Up to £2.25 million of funding is available to support larger projects valued at over £200,000 which are led by Parish and Town Councils but support South Norfolk Council's strategic ambitions and wider place shaping ambitions. The local Council is expected to provide some matched funding. Applications are through a 2-stage process. At Stage 1 councils must complete an initial expression of interest. Successful projects for 26/27 are likely to be significantly advanced already.

Food Waste

Collections of food waste in parts of Stoke Holy Cross are on track to start in the week starting 27th July on the usual rubbish and recycling day. Further information, caddies and bags will be provided to resident before the start date. Collections for other residents will start at end September. You can check on your start date here: <https://forms.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/FoodWasteChecker/index.aspx>

County Council Recycling Centres

Norwich South Recycling Centre is now able to accept all electricals for recycling including fridges and freezers. Please note that there is a nationwide shortage of capacity for recycling fridges and freezers.

Local Government Reform and Devolution

Both Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk District Council are submitting applications for a judicial review of the Government's plans for the reorganisation of Norfolk into 3 Unitary Authorities.

While council officers continue to expect LGR to be implemented, with elections to the new authorities in May 2027, there are suggestions that the timetable for the necessary Parliamentary Structural Change Order is delayed until the end of 2026 or early 2027.

East Pye Solar Farm.

This NSIP application is moving towards the 6 month examination period. The Planning Inspectorate's draft timetable for the examination has been published. The examination is proposed to start on 15th September. A meeting on examination procedure is confirmed for 15th September at Dunston Hall. All individuals wishing to participate in the meeting, or make written representations on the proposed process, must write on or before 1st September. The initial hearings are planned for 15th to 17th September. Requests to attend and/or participate in these hearings must be made on or before 1st September.

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110014?lang=en>

EDF Energy Solar Park

EDF submitted limited information to South Norfolk on its proposal for a large solar farm between the A140 and the River Tas, running south of Dunston Hall Golf Course. The Council has responded to the request for an EIA screening opinion, indicating that a full Environment Assessment is required. Consultation events will be held later in the year, but no dates are available yet.

'Norwich to Tilbury' Community Fund Consultation

If the Norwich to Tilbury transmission project is granted planning consent, a dedicated Community Fund of over £30 million will be unlocked when construction starts (potentially Q1 2027) construction. The fund would be invested in two ways, a Local Fund, with grants available for grass-roots projects and a Strategic Fund, supporting bigger, longer-term projects.

The consultation is now open, and a final online webinar will be held on 29th July. Further information can be found here: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/community-fund>

National Grid have stated that a copy of the webinar and webinar slides will be available on the link above. No closing date for the consultation has been announced.

The National Grid's Development Consent Order continues at the examination phase. This is scheduled to close on 10 August 2026.

Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber

Councillor Contact Details

Cllr. Jim Webber	jim.webber@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk	07394 323215
Cllr. Ian Spratt	ian.spratt@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk	07554 668337
Cllr. Bob McClenning	bob.mcclenning@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk	07769 030926