

## Stoke Holy Cross - District Councillors Report 21<sup>st</sup> May 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 also discuss larger grants with your District Councillors (see Communities Action Fund and Communities Facilities Grants below).

### 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 16<sup>th</sup> August. Applications are more likely to be funded if matched funding is available from other sources.

### In Bloom Grant

Applications can be made by Parish Councils and other community organisations for an 'In Bloom' Grant. These are to help fund "projects that enhance the visual appeal of their communities, encourage the growing of produce, and promote wildlife and biodiversity." The total amount available per parish is limited to £1 per resident and applications must have at least 50% matched funding. Applications are now being accepted until 15<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

### Electricals Recycling

A quick reminder about the Council's collection service for small electricals and batteries. Simply book a collection and leave your items out on your usual bin day, we'll do the rest.

- ✅ What you can recycle: Small items like kettles, toasters, hairdryers, chargers, cables, and batteries
- ❌ What we can't take: Large appliances (like microwaves or TVs), commercial waste, or items that don't fit in a standard carrier bag

👉 Book your collection here: <https://orlo.uk/mT0fD>

### Local Government Reform and Devolution

Work is progressing on the planning of the implementation of local government reform, with preliminary proposals being made for the warding of the new authorities and the structure of the teams and councillor committees which will oversee the formation of the three new unitary authorities.

The necessary legislation setting out the timetable for elections to the new authorities (expected May 2027), the voting arrangements and the transitional arrangements is expected to be published in September/October this year.

At the same time, Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council are each considering the possibility of legal challenges to the Government's plans for local government reform.

### Greater Norwich Local Plan 2045

South Norfolk Council formally approved commencement of the next iteration of the GNLP. A scoping consultation will be undertaken in the summer, a first 6-week consultation of the local plan will be undertaken in 2027, and the new plan should be adopted in 2029.

## East Pye Solar Farm.

On 2 April 2026, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) accepted East Pye Solar for examination. With the application now accepted, PINS will be asking anyone with an interest in the Scheme to register as an Interested Party and submit a Relevant Representation. Registering as an Interested Party will allow you to take part in the Examination and you will receive formal notifications as the Examination progresses. From 29 April, you have until 23:59 on Wednesday 10 June 2026 to register as an Interested Party and submit a Relevant Representation. The application documents are now available at the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110014> .

## 'Norwich to Tilbury' Update

The National Grid's Development Consent Order continues at the examination phase. This is scheduled to close on 10 August 2026, although an earlier close is possible. The initial public hearings have been completed and can be viewed online: [Examination timetable - Norwich to Tilbury - Find a National Infrastructure Project](#).

PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to campaign against the pylon proposals and are fundraising. For further information visit: <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions>.

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