

Stoke Holy Cross District Councillor Report 19th September 2024

Grants

At present Member Ward Grants for 2024/25 have been fully reserved. Requests for future support with small projects (up to £1,000 usually) to benefit the local community can be made to your District Councillors.

Natural Flood Management

Councillors attended the session on Natural Flood Management at the Town & Parish Forum on Wednesday 7th August. Speakers from the Environment Agency and Natural England explained how farmers and landowners can use natural methods to reduce the flow of water into watercourses and indicated some of the financial incentives available.

Electric Vehicle Charge Points

South Norfolk Council is offering Parish Councils and community associations (eg village halls) grants of up to £10,000 for installation of an EV charge point. There is no requirement for any matched funding. Grants are not available towards the cost of battery storage.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/car-parks/electric-charging-points/2>

Housing Allocation Policy

The Council has agreed a revised Housing Allocation Policy which reflects the shortage of social housing in South Norfolk (and elsewhere), the growing numbers of people on the housing register and the lack of movement on the register. The changes enable leavers from the care system under the age of 25, and individuals moving from 3+ bedroom properties to smaller properties, to be prioritised for housing allocation. The local connection and family connection tests for joining the register are being tightened. Residents already on the list will be reassessed in accordance with their usual 2 year review timetable.

National Planning Policy Consultation

The Government is consulting on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. This includes changes to the target number of houses that each area is expected to build, with the aim of building 1.5 million new homes over the next 5 years. The proposed standard method would require 2,647 new homes per year in the Greater Norwich Local Plan area, representing an increase of 721 houses (37%) over the recently approved local plan.

Village Clusters Update

The South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (VCHAP) Regulation 19 Pre-submission Addendum was published on Monday 12 August and runs through to 5pm on Monday 7 October 2024. This is the final consultation before the VCHAP is submitted to the Inspector.

During the consultation period, the proposed Addendum and supporting information is available at the Millennium Library, Norwich and online at: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/emerging-local-plan/south-norfolk-village-clusters-housing-allocations-plan> .

Bleed Kits

South Norfolk Council has agreed to provide bleed kits for each of its Leisure Centre. This follows an approach to a Councillor from the mother of a youth killed in a knife attack in Wymondham. The kit includes equipment to stem the flow of blood as a result of serious injury, which might be work or sports related. The objective of a bleed kit is to stem the flow of blood following a traumatic injury incurred through accident or attack. Ideally kits will be in places that are publicly accessible – as many defibrillators are. More information is available from the Daniel Baird Foundation at this link:

<https://controlthebleed.org.uk/> .

Wymondham Public Realm Improvements

Wymondham Town Council and South Norfolk Council are working together to improve the public realm in Wymondham town centre with a budget of nearly £1 million. The project is still in its early stages, and the councils are seeking input from local residents, businesses and visitors on how to best to invest. More information and a short online consultation can be found here:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/article/488/consultation-on-wymondham-improvements-now-open> .

'Norwich to Tilbury' Update

The consultation on the proposed pylon scheme has now closed. National Grid is considering responses. It plans to submit its final proposals in an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate in 2025.

PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to campaign against the pylon proposals. For further information visit

<https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions>

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