



Barford & Wramplingham Parish Council (BWPC)

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting

Meeting held on Tuesday 25th May 2025 at 7:30pm at Barford & Wramplingham Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Keith Waldron (KW), Jeremy Hyam (JH), David Evans (DE), Sara Harrold and Sandra Betts (SB).

In Attendance: CC Margaret Dewsbury (MD), DC Richard Elliott (RE), Clerk, Teresa Copping (TC) and 5 members of the public.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Ian Irving and Mary Dorrell

2. Record and Approve Minutes of previous meeting:

Minutes were circulated prior to meeting. The minutes were approved as a true record. Proposed KW, Seconded JH. All in favour

3. Matters Arising:

None

4. Reports from Local Organisations (included in reports pack)

A. Barford and Wramplingham Parish Council

Report presented by Keith Waldron, Chair of PC.

B. South Norfolk District Council

Report presented by Councillor Elliot

C. Norfolk County Council

Report presented by Councillor Margaret Dewsbury.

D. Barford Parochial Church Council

Report presented by David Dale

E. Wramplingham Parochial Parish Council

Verbal report presented by Philip Richardson. Phillip also updated the meeting on progress of their plans for an extension of the church.

F. Barford and Wramplingham Village Hall

Mark Avery presented the report on behalf of Norman Cox the Chair of the Village Hall Committee who was unable to attend

G. Barford, Wramplingham and District Women's Institute

Verbal report presented by Lesley Dick.

H. Pop-Up Cafe

Report presented by Anya Mitchell.

I. Other Organisations not listed

Mark Amery gave a verbal report on the activities of the carpet bowls club

J. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Report presented by Cllr Jeremy Hyam

5. Open Forum

Anya Mitchel, school governor, gave a verbal report on the challenges faced by the local school with low numbers and strained financial resources. The federation with Bawburgh is working well and an OFSTED visit is expected.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 20:13

Annual Parish Meeting Reports 2025.

A.

Barford&Wramplingham Parish Council Annual Report April 2025

Once again it has been a very busy year for the parish council. There were no changes of personnel on the parish council with the exception that Jeremy Hyam was appointed vice chair as Mary Dorrell stepped down from this position. We were delighted to hear that Mary had been named councillor of the year by SNDC. This was so well deserved as for many years Mary has committed many hours to her role.

Unfortunately our newly appointed clerk left the role without notice but we were lucky enough to be able to quickly appoint another good candidate from the process who has now been in post for almost a year.

Once again the parish council was able to provide financial support to a number of local groups many of whom are in attendance and providing their own annual report.

There have been many consultations to which the parish council has responded including SNDC Custom Build consultation, SNDC Design Code consultation, Reforms to National Planning Policy Framework, Wymondham Realm consultation, Norfolk CC savings proposals and British Telecom proposals to remove Barford telephone kiosk.

The Parish Council has had another busy year responding to planning applications. The Village Cluster Housing Proposals have been of particular interest to local residents. We were delighted that so many residents attended meetings to have their voice heard. The PC invested a great deal of time in formulating a very comprehensive objection. The decision has not yet been made.

Highways and Flooding have again been kept top of mind and are reviewed at every meeting. We have had a number of successes addressing highways issues including repair to the school warning sign outside the village hall, maintenance of the speed awareness signs on the Watton Road and on the approach to the village. The district council responded positively to our requests for street cleaning in both Wrampingham and Barford. We are very grateful to those local residents who have cut back and maintained hedging to ensure road signs can be seen.

Unfortunately, due to the match funding requirements, we were unable to benefit from the Parish Partnerships scheme this year. However we are taking steps to rebuild our reserves and hope to be able to make use of the scheme in the future.

Residents of Wrampingham may have noticed that the village phone box has been painted and shelving installed. In addition the village sign has had some maintenance work completed. Once again thanks go to local residents who undertook some of this work for us free of charge. We hope to be able to install a new notice board in Barford next year.

A great deal of work has been done on the PC website and we are seeing an increasing number of visitors to the site. This is great news and we will continue to work on the site next year.

B.

District Councillor Annual Report to Barford and Wrampingham

It gives me great pleasure to present my 2024/25 annual report from South Norfolk District Council.

Finance – Where does your money go?

South Norfolk Council delivers 86 diverse services and its budget for 2025/26 is:

- • Gross Cost: £64,952,000
- • Income: £43,666,000
- • Net Cost: £21,286,000

The budget is funded through a combination of business rates, Council Tax, and

government grants. The Council's demand on the Collection Fund for general expenditure is £9,466,975, and for special expenditure is £7,540.

Council Tax – The District Council has raised its share of Council Tax by £5 per Band D property, representing a consistent policy for several years now. Although the council remains committed to identifying structural savings that may allow for further freezes in the future.

South Norfolk Council has set the Council Tax for 2025/26 as follows:

- • Band D property: £175.00 per year, an increase of £5 from the previous year.
- • Average Council Tax bill: £2,367.89 per year for a Band D property, which also includes contributions to Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner, and Parish/Town Councils.

Here is a breakdown of the average Council Tax bill for a Band D property:

- • Norfolk County Council (excluding Adult Social Care Precept): £1,494.09
- • Adult Social Care Precept to Norfolk County Council: £261.54
- • Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk: £329.85
- • South Norfolk Council: £175.00
- • Parish/Town Council (average): £107.27
- • Special Expenses (Street Lighting): £0.14

Note – the average Parish Precept for this Ward is roughly half the District average.

Environment & Waste – The Government has mandated the rollout of food waste services from April 2026, to meet this deadline, South Norfolk is making significant investments into new fleet and depot infrastructure to support the new requirement.

Concurrently, the Council has launched a new campaign focused on fly-tipping, which has achieved a high media profile; the ‘WTF’ campaign (Where’s the Fly Tip). The campaign has the goal of both encouraging people to report incidents of fly-tipping, whilst also making perpetrators more aware of the risks of prosecution.

The Council also launched a new grant for the upcoming year for nature recovery,

which organisations can bid for grants of up to £10k to support projects that meet the goals of carbon sequestration, promoting biodiversity, and enhancing public access. Examples could be mini-forests, new pathways, or restoring ponds. Please get in touch directly if you want help applying.

The Council has also indicated it's desire to identify one large scale project that meets the above requirements, and it actively exploring opportunities across South Norfolk.

Economic Development – The Council continues it's successful projects to promote Small and Medium Sized Businesses (SME), including its Rural Business Builder programme. In addition, it has helped to joint fund the initial stages of a new lab facility at the Norwich Research Park alongside the County Council and private contractors.

More information will be forthcoming over the coming year.

Planning, Housebuilding and Energy Infrastructure – You will be aware that last year the Greater Norwich Local Plan was passed, protecting the five-year land supply in South Norfolk, the practical impact of this was to protect sites that had not been allocated for development from speculative planning applications. However, the government late last year made a number of changes to the planning system, and housing targets, which means this protection from speculative applications has now been lost. South Norfolk Council is currently exploring a range of options to tackle this, the most public of which has been the option to build a new town.

This is only one option, and to be clear, the advantages of it would be to avoid development of land in existing villages and towns where infrastructure is strained. A new town would allow us to focus development in one area, and ensure the correct infrastructure is installed from the start.

In parallel, South Norfolk is receiving vast amounts of interest for solar farm and energy infrastructure development. Whilst not opposing the development of renewable energy, the council feels these have to be channeled to the most appropriate sites, and that a strategic approach to their development needs to be taken. As such we will be publishing further guidance on this over the coming year and will continue to challenge

the government on their approach.

Health and Leisure – Work continues on the new building for the Humbleyard practice in Hethersett, and we are hopeful of having workers on site early next year. Existing facilities in Cringleford and Mulbarton will remain, and the goal of the new development is to reduce pressure for doctors' appointments across all three villages.

In January, the Council's renovated swimming pool in Diss re-opened, and work is now underway to create a new Community and Leisure Centre in Diss on the old John Grose site.

Local Grants – Sixteen projects received a share of £150,000 from the Community Action Fund. These included improvements to village halls, play areas and sporting facilities.

Local Government Re-organisation and Devolution – In November the government invited applications for applicants to enter the new Devolution Priority Programme. The goal of this is to devolve new powers around infrastructure, adult skills, and economic development to a Mayoral body that will sit across Norfolk and Suffolk.

Concurrently, the government has asked Councils in Norfolk to submit proposals for re-organizing local government on a single tier basis (creating new authorities that have the powers of both District and County Council). It is anticipated these will come into effect in 2028, with elections to the 'shadow' bodies in 2027. No proposal for what this would look like has yet been agreed.

However, the other six district councils are supporting plans for a three unitary proposal, which would include a 'Greater Norwich'. South Norfolk is opposing any proposal that breaks the Norwich Travel to Work area, fearing it would be an non sensible economic geography, not have the tax base to deliver social services, and would leave communities on the edge of Norwich in an authority where their concerns would play

second fiddle to the Urban Core. As such, South Norfolk is proposing an East-West Two Unitary model. The County Council is exploring options for both one and two unitaries.

C. Norfolk County Council Annual Report to Parish.

Council Delivers Balanced Budget and calls for cost-saving local government reorganisation

Norfolk County Council has approved a balanced budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year, despite facing considerable financial challenges.

Key Details from the Norfolk County Council Budget:

- a. **Gross Budget:** The council has a gross expenditure budget of £2.2 billion (£1.7 billion excluding schools). This includes:
 - a. £700 million for Adult Social Care
 - b. £367 million for Children's Services (non-schools)
 - c. £283 million for Infrastructure
 - d. £44 million for Communities and Environment
 - e. £46 million for Fire Services

Net Budget: The net budget for 2025/26 is £572 million. This represents the amount raised through Council Tax to fund the services provided by the council.

- 4 **Budget Growth:** The 2025/26 budget includes an increase of £121 million, which covers:
 - a. £31 million for inflationary pressures
 - b. £35 million for legislative pressures (including the increase in the National Living Wage and higher Employers National Insurance contributions)
 - c. £15 million for demand and demographic pressures
 - d. Over £25 million to cover recurrent overspends from Adult and Children's Services in 2024/25.

- 5 **Funding and Savings:** While costs have risen by £121 million, funding has only increased by £32 million. The Government has eliminated the Rural Services Delivery

Grant and reallocated funds from rural to metropolitan areas. To balance the budget, savings of £45 million will be implemented.

- 6 Council Tax:** For 2025/26, Council Tax will increase by 4.99%, which includes a 3% rise for general Council Tax and a 2% increase for the Adult Social Care precept. A Band D household will pay £1,755.63 per year, or around £34 per week, for County Council services in 2025/26.

Norfolk announced as priority area for new powers and funding

Norfolk is set to gain new powers and funding following a significant Government announcement on 5th February 2025. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner revealed that Norfolk would be a priority area for devolution and local government reform. As part of this, the Government is seeking to create a devolution deal for Norfolk and Suffolk, which would include the introduction of an elected mayor.

In addition, there are plans to reshape local government in Norfolk. The Government intends to replace the current two-tier structure, where services are shared between county and district councils, with unitary authorities. This would centralize decision-making and service delivery into a single authority, streamlining local government processes and potentially increasing efficiency and saving taxpayers money.

These changes will empower local areas with more control over their services and funding. For further details on the progress of devolution and the impact of these reforms, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution, where you can also find answers to frequently asked questions from the Local Government Association. To watch an informative video [**go to our video explaining devolution and local government reform.**](#)

Norfolk signs historic agreement with Ukrainian region of Lviv

A cooperation agreement has been signed between Norfolk County Council and the Ukrainian region of Lviv which is designed to explore knowledge transfer, educational exchange and trade opportunities.

The historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Thursday 2 May at the Ukrainian Embassy in London by Leader of Norfolk County Council Kay Mason Billig and in Lviv via video link by Maksym Kozytskyi, Head of the Lviv Regional Military Administration. It is the first such agreement to be signed with Lviv by any part of the UK.

Cllr Mason Billig was joined at the ceremony by Liz Truss MP, as the MP for South West Norfolk, Cllr Fabian Eagle Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Cllr Chris Dawson, Rural Champion, Chris Starkie, Director of Growth and Investment, and Roberta Willner, Head of Economic Development. Also there to witness the signing of the agreement was Nataliya Klymko, Programmes Coordinator for Growth and Investment.

Both Norwich and Lviv have links to UNESCO: Norwich is a UNESCO City of Literature, and the historic part of Lviv city (300-acre historic centre) is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. In 2022, Lviv was granted Freedom of the City of Norwich in solidarity with Ukraine, and the MoU - similar to a twinning arrangement - will further celebrate and build on these links.

Norfolk and Lviv have identified several key opportunities for collaborative working, including the TechBridge programme, a strategic partnership between the UK Government, Ukraine Ministry of Digital Transformation and Ukraine Ministry of Foreign Affairs to forge connections between our tech ecosystems.

This partnership currently runs to 2025 but may be extended, providing businesses in both locations access to expert advice and support in navigating the barriers to UK-Ukraine trade. There are also specialist investment accelerator programmes for Ukraine tech SMEs looking to expand overseas.

The skills and knowledge the local Lviv tech sector offers are recognised on the international level. For example, Lviv IT specialists developed the Skype app and special effects for films such as Harry Potter and Spider-Man. Norfolk also has a strong growing ICT/Digital sector with several individual clusters, and the MoU will encourage collaboration within the sector between our regions by participating in mutual events of interest.

This not only benefits cluster growth in a key sector for Norwich and Norfolk's digital services and would benefit Lviv through the contribution to the recovery efforts.

Other opportunities for collaboration include an incoming visit to the Theatre Royal Norwich in October by the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine, led by leading conductor, Theodore Kuchar.

Norfolk County Council opposes National Grid pylon scheme

Councillors in Norfolk have objected to a National Grid proposal to construct an electricity transmission line across the county.

National Grid has launched a statutory consultation on plans for an 114 mile overhead power line between Norwich in Norfolk, Bramford in Suffolk and Tilbury in Essex.

In non-statutory consultations, Norfolk County Council has urged National Grid to reconsider the scheme, but the project will be determined by the secretary of state for energy security and net zero as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

Norfolk County Council's planning and highways delegations committee have agreed to object to the proposal, arguing that alternative options, including an offshore or underground scheme, had not been adequately considered.

At a recent full council meeting, councillors backed a motion expressing concerns over the proposals.

That motion called for Kay Mason Billig, leader of the Conservative-controlled council to write to National Grid with several requests, including further consideration of an offshore alternative and of putting more of the power line underground.

Norfolk set to receive highest highways maintenance allocation in the region

Norfolk is set to receive more than £56 million for highways maintenance this year.

Funding for every local authority across England today can be used throughout 2025/6 on the roads are in most need of repair, and to deliver immediate fixes for communities across Norfolk.

This comes just a few weeks after Norfolk took the top spot for the second year in a row in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) survey on roads and transport. People from across the county gave Norfolk the highest (above average) score in satisfaction with the condition of the highways.

More than 5,300 potholes have been fixed across Norfolk since April this year and of those 99% were repaired by our contractors within the agreed response times. If you see a pothole - don't assume someone else has reported it. Let us know by completing our online form: www.norfolk.gov.uk/potholes

Norfolk's highways set for major investment in the year ahead

This month Norfolk County Council Cabinet has reviewed a series of investments and improvements to the county's highways infrastructure.

Documents reveal how 97 parishes, from Antingham to Worstead, will benefit from projects funded through the Council's Parish Partnership scheme. The 2025/26 programme is

designed to deliver what local communities have requested, including trods, village gateways, bus shelters, and vehicle-activated signs.

The programme is jointly funded by Norfolk County Council and contributions from Town and Parish Councils. This year, Norfolk County Council plans to contribute £425,476, enabling a total investment of £848,702 for local projects.

The Cabinet has also reviewed the highways capital programme, which highlights successes from the previous year and outlines how highways maintenance funding will be allocated for the coming 12 months. This includes an additional £15 million from the Department for Transport (DfT).

With this extra funding, an additional 100 miles of roads in Norfolk will be resurfaced this year, supporting the Council's proactive approach to highway maintenance that helps prevent potholes. The funding will also provide additional resources for local repairs and patching across the county.

Herring Bridge receives further national awards

The new Herring Bridge in Great Yarmouth, which opened in February, received further national recognition at a Highway Awards ceremony in London last night.

Norfolk County Council's nationally significant infrastructure project won the Major Project of Year award and was also later announced as winner for the Highways Special Merit award across all shortlisted finalists.

This follows the bridge already receiving Major Project of the Year at the New Civil Engineer awards early this summer.

The Highway Awards were held on Tuesday 24th September at Park Plaza, Westminster Bridge in London, with shortlisted entries decided by an expert panel of twelve judges.

Norfolk's entry was a joint submission with consultants WSP who worked with the council and partners to take the project, constructed by BAM Farrans joint venture, from its inception through to delivery.

Norfolk County Council committed over £1m to keep people warm last winter

Proposals to support some of Norfolk's most vulnerable people this winter have been set out today.

Norfolk County Council is looking to use £1.15m of the £6.7m allocated to the county through the Household Support Fund to keep people warm and help them make ends meet.

The county council will use £0.75m to partner with local organisations, including Age UK and Citizens Advice Bureau, to reach some of those most affected by the changes to the Winter Fuel Payments. They will also put £400k into the 'warm spaces' scheme which provides vital respite in community spaces across the county.

The proposals also include £3.6m to continue providing cost-of-living vouchers for families eligible for means tested free school meals. This is in addition to:

1. £1.00m to Norfolk Assistance Scheme. Delivered by the Norfolk County Council, the scheme includes direct award of assistance, the provision of household items and emergency help, alongside a range of support and guidance
2. £0.70m to local councils across Norfolk to provide proactive and crisis support
3. £0.25m to Adult Learning to continue free access to a range of courses to help with cooking at home, budgeting, and digital skills.

New strategy puts Norfolk at the forefront of the UK economy

Ambitious plans for Norfolk's economy have been unveiled in a new strategy to be presented to the county council's cabinet in November.

The strategy seeks to build on Norfolk's influence in key sectors, including clean energy, agri-tech and cutting-edge research.

Norfolk's Economic Strategy, also known as a Local Growth Plan, sets out an overview of the local economy and key priority areas for economic growth.

Norfolk is already at the forefront of some of the UK's most strategically important sectors.

Norfolk is a global leader for offshore wind with £39bn of clean energy investment forecasted over the next 20 years. In Great Yarmouth, the new Operations and Maintenance Campus is expected to create 650 new jobs and new commercial space for the offshore renewable energy sector. This £24.8m partnership project is a collaboration with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, with enabling works well underway.

Work is also underway to examine how to decarbonise the gas supply through the development of a 'Bacton Energy Hub', reusing existing North Sea assets for carbon storage, and blue/green hydrogen production.

The local Agri-Food and Agri-Tech economy puts Norfolk at the epicentre of addressing challenges around food security and climate change. Norwich Research Park is a world-leading research base at the forefront of global food and health research. It is Europe's largest single site hub of research, training, education, and enterprise in food and health.

Norfolk is already well known for a visitor economy which accounts for nearly 20% of all employment. The county was recently successful in bidding to become a Local Visitor Economy Partnership, alongside Visit East of England and Suffolk County Council. This put them on an even footing with the likes of Cornwall, the Peak District, and the Cotswolds who have the same level of Visit England accreditation.

Major infrastructure projects continue to transform how residents and businesses get around. The completion of the Herring Bridge and the start of construction on the long-awaited Long Stratton Bypass will bring a major boost for the local economy. Norfolk has also seen year-on-year growth in bus passenger numbers and the introduction of a major electric bus fleet.

The county council continues to push for improvements along the A47, with an ongoing campaign to improve connectivity and safety through further dualling in key areas.

Norfolk has built an increasingly enterprising culture, supporting residents to start up their own business, and for new start-ups to survive and thrive. Norfolk has a better than UK average for survival of new businesses at 63% after 3 years, compared to the UK average of 56%.

New Anglia Growth Hub acts as the 'front door' for local businesses looking for support. Over the past 10 years, the Growth Hub has supported over 14,000 businesses with free, impartial support and advice.

Norfolk County Council supports Norfolk's Family Farms

Conservative-led Norfolk County Council is taking proactive steps to support the county's hard-working family farms in response to recent budget announcements from the Labour Government. Recognizing the essential role that farming plays in the local economy, the Council is submitting and debating a motion aimed at ensuring that Norfolk's farmers are well-supported as they navigate the challenges brought on by these new policies.

The motion reflects the Council's strong commitment to championing local businesses, with a particular focus on protecting the livelihoods of those who sustain Norfolk's agricultural heritage. Norfolk's family farms are the backbone of rural communities, and the Conservative-led Council is dedicated to ensuring that their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed.

Understanding the issues that local farmers face, ranging from financial pressures to complex regulatory changes, the motion highlights the importance of offering practical support.

Norfolk County Council is committed to creating a future where local farmers can thrive, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous agricultural sector for generations to come.

Norfolk street lighting goes green

Norfolk is leading the way in energy efficiency with the successful completion of its street lighting upgrade project, finishing almost a year ahead of schedule. This major initiative will cut CO2 emissions by over 200 tonnes annually, helping the county make significant strides toward a greener, more sustainable future.

The upgrade, carried out by Amey on behalf of Norfolk County Council, involved replacing 16,800 traditional High-Intensity Discharge (HID) lights with 15,531 state-of-the-art LED lanterns. This transition, which began in August 2023, will ensure that, starting in November 2024, 100% of Norfolk County Council's street lighting will use low-energy LEDs.

The final phase of this project will save approximately 1,099,032 kWh of energy each year, translating to an estimated £380,000 in savings based on current electricity prices.

Since the first LED streetlights were installed in 2008, the county has saved around 71 million kWh of energy, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by over 22,200 tonnes, equivalent to the carbon savings of 6.7 million litres of diesel. This project marks another significant achievement in Norfolk's ongoing commitment to reducing its environmental impact and promoting energy sustainability.

Discover the Best of Norfolk: Explore 1,500 Miles of Scenic Trails for Walking, Cycling, and Horse-Riding

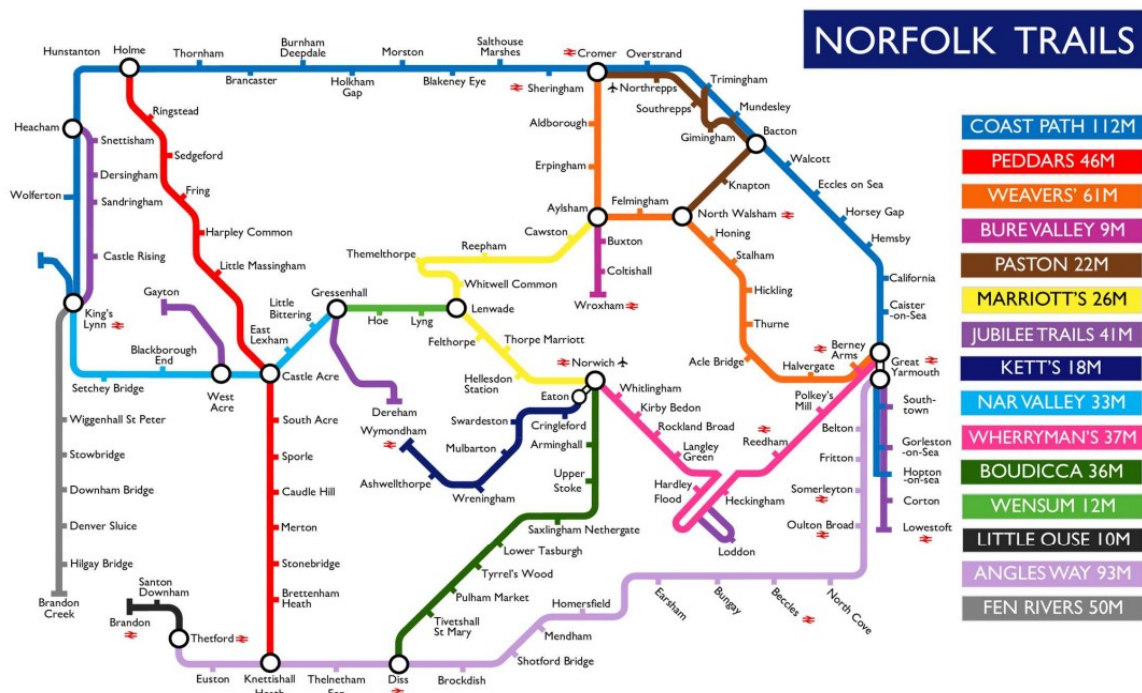
Norfolk offers over 1,500 miles of beautiful walking, cycling, and horse-riding routes, each showcasing the county's unique nature and rich cultural heritage. Whether you're exploring tranquil river valleys, historic landscapes, or scenic coastal paths, Norfolk's trails offer something for every adventurer.

Highlights include the **Angles Way**, a 93-mile walking route through woodlands and heathland, and the **Boudicca Way**, a 36-mile journey through ancient Roman and Iceni heritage sites. For those seeking to explore the Broads, the **Bure Valley Path** offers a 9-mile route along a heritage railway. History buffs will enjoy the **Kett's Country Trail**, which follows the story of Kett's Rebellion, while the **Peddars Way** takes you along an ancient Roman road.

Other stunning routes include the **Norfolk Coast Path** (a 112-mile National Trail), the **Marriott's Way** (26 miles of scenic walking, cycling, and horse-riding), and the **Wherryman's Way**, a 40-mile trek through the beautiful Broads National Park.

Whether you're interested in history, nature, or simply exploring the countryside, Norfolk's extensive network of trails provides the perfect way to experience this beautiful region.

For more information please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/42852/Norfolk-Trails



Working Well Norfolk helping people with long-term health issues to keep working

A scheme to support people in Norfolk with long-term health issues get back into employment or continue in their jobs has already helped more than 1,100 participants.

The Working Well Norfolk programme, launched in October 2023, supports individuals with long-term health issues to return to or stay in work. It has already helped over 1,100 participants, with 200 moving into work and 150 staying employed despite health challenges. The programme has received 1,600 referrals and will continue for another 18 months, with additional funding to help 730 more people, totalling 1,830 participants by September 2026. The £5.2m project is managed by Norfolk County Council and delivered by Seetec Pluss and Standguide Ltd. For more info or to refer, visit [Working Well Norfolk - Seetec Pluss](#) or call 01603 561054.

D.

BARFORD ST BOTOLPH CHURCH – REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2024

Church services continued to be held on the second Sunday of the month usually alternating between Holy Communion and Morning Worship and with typically 14 people attending. When there is no service at least six of us regularly attend other churches in the Group. Barford hosted the Group Service in April. There is a monthly mid-week Home Communion at 9 Chapel Street. The church remains open each day.

There were two baptisms, one wedding and two funerals with burial in the churchyard, one burial of ashes and one memorial service. Ann and Graham Woodhouse were commissioned as pastoral and authorized worship ministers in November and now lead services within the Group.

The Bishop of Norwich visited Barford School and Church in May. Barford joined in celebrating 60 years of the BBUY Group by hosting a musical evening with the D'Capo Choir in October and members attended other celebratory events across the Group during the year. A student with a keen interest in church bells visited the church tower accompanied by the churchwarden. Swallows continue to nest in the porch and the spring bulbs in the churchyard are a delight.

The chancel windows were repaired financed by a further grant from the Greenwood legacy, private donations and our Fabric Fund. We paid the Share in full.

The PCC again organised a Food Bank in December with collection points at the school, Barford Hire, WI and the church. We continue to sell greetings and Christmas cards and books in the church and welcome cyclists and others for the annual Norfolk Churches Trust fundraising event in September.

The children of Barford School continue to visit the church for their Harvest Festival and Carol Services.

The PCC continues to be grateful to those who give their time, energy and donations to the work of our church, to the parish council for grasscutting, to the Fabric Officer for overseeing maintenance of the church, to the churchwarden for his care of the church and churchyard and for opening the church each day, to the Assistant Priests and Lay Readers who have taken our services and to Rev Dr Tim Weatherstone for his unstinting support and pastoral care during the past year.

F

Once again I would like to thank the Committee for all their dedication and help over the last twelve months. Which at times has been challenging, but we seem to have carried on regardless.

The Hirings continue to rise, our fees will have to be reviewed as prices are increasing particularly with heating and electricity costs rising etc.

In January a new roundabout was fitted in the Play area, paid for with monies raised by the Play Area team, we'd like to Thank them as they continue to raise funds for further equipment.

Improvements continue to be made to the hall, which included the fitting of blinds to all the main hall windows during March/April At the end of the March we held an Easter fundraiser for the children which proved to be very popular. During May we had a 'mini circus' stay on our field and provided workshops and entertainment to the local children.

A special meeting was held at the Village hall re discussions on the future of the playing field etc mainly caused by misinformation contained in a leaflet distributed in the village. Also an assumption that the Committee had changed the lease for its own ends.

The dog training classes ended mid year, but still have a steady income from Home Education group. The Baby ballet ceased in Dec. as their numbers were so low. Other than that the regular Hirings continue, with more parties for the youngsters. We had two sleepovers with the local Brownies that proved very successful for them, and they are keen to book further stays. Another very popular event is the monthly Pop up cafe.

The fortnightly bowls is still an ongoing concern.

September saw the annual cricket game against Wramplingham of which Barford were narrowly the winners this year, a very pleasant day had by all. We held a very successful Halloween event, again very popular and a good turn out. Special visit from the Ghostbusters team made the day even better for children and adults alike.

As Panthers have now folded the football strips have been given to a Charity abroad. Some of the equip was repaired and sold. Hockering football club failed to tell us the usage they would require our field and it was decided in the best interest of the village not to go ahead with the hire, as it would mean regular weekends and some evenings with the footballers expecting to use not only the field but hall facilities too. We still have a group that will happily train on our field from April onwards, but only on a Friday evening for a couple of hours.

The Charity name was changed as a requirement by the Insurance company and now reads 'Barford and Wramplingham Playing Field and Village Hall' The Charity number remains the same 303897.

I'd like to thank Bridget Whittell for her successful bid for funding from the lottery to replace the kitchen. I'd like to thank everyone on the Committee for all their valued ongoing support to myself and the village.

I'd also like to thank the Parish Council for taking on the payment of the Annual Grass cutting as unlike us they are able to claim back the VAT.

The Committee are awaiting the decision regarding the VCHAP applications, after which we will be able to make our future plans

H.

The pop-up cafe team would like to thank you for your financial support in recent years. We were very grateful for your grant last year, which covered the cost of hiring the village hall. We would be grateful if you could, once again, consider supporting our monthly pop-up cafe.

We are self-funding, with the exception of the cost of hiring the hall itself.

Details of our average costs each month:

Income from the sale of refreshments £45-£50

Expenses £30

(These figures fluctuate quite considerably, £10 profit in January but £39 in March)

We charge 50p per cake/scone/sausage roll etc and £1 for tea/coffee with a free refill. This encourages people to stay and chat without needing to spend any more money. We are very reluctant to increase our prices. Our visitors appreciate our low prices and I often mention that we are supported financially by the Parish Council as I think it is important that your support is recognised.

We are grateful to our small band of bakers who regularly provide delicious offerings. In order to help towards their costs we reimburse them, £5 per large cake, batch of sausage rolls etc. We aim to have at least five options each month, plus supplies of milk, tea, coffee etc. As you see, we usually have a small surplus each month. This we squirrel away during the year and use to provide free festive refreshments at our Christmas cafe, where we also have craft stalls to support local crafters. During the past year we also purchased prizes for Christmas and Easter raffles. The first of those, with added donations, raised £300 for Priscilla Bacon Lodge, in memory of our much missed pop-up visitor Peter Bird. The Easter raffle takings were used towards our Easter afternoon of tea and fun at the village hall for the local children, which we will do again this Easter.

During this year we are aiming to add an extra 'something of interest' to each pop-up session, a display of a particular craft/hobby, a seed/plant sale etc. We also have a good selection of games and puzzles always available.

Of course, our expenses do not include the actual cost of hiring the village hall.

We do not have our own bank account, so in the past, you have paid Norman Cox directly.

This year, for the first time, we are able to pay towards the cost of the hall hire from our surplus funds. I attach an invoice from Norman. As you will see, costs, notably electricity & gas, have risen and Norman is not able to be as generous with his subsidy as in previous

years. His invoice states a total cost of £430. We are able to pay £230 directly to him, and would be extremely grateful if your funds could allow you to contribute the remaining £200. During the course of this year we aim to accrue sufficient surplus to pay a similar amount next year.

We understand that you will have many calls upon your financial help and we would be grateful if you could consider helping to fund our village hall hire.

J
Neighbourhood Plan,

KEY POINTS

- b. A draft contract is in circulation with the Consultant CCP planning who have been appointed after a selection process. The basis of the contractual arrangement is cost-neutral for the PC – the consultant will be funded from grants obtained from South Norfolk and (when it becomes available – expected July 2025) Locality (central government funding).
- c. LM had observed that the neighbourhood plan aspect of the proposal lacked specificity and more detail on the standard/quality of that deliverable was needed.
- d. KW proposed that the draft was forwarded to NALC for advice/input.
- e. The Neighbourhood Plan designation **has been accepted by South Norfolk CC.**
- f. The application for local grant funding from South Norfolk CC **has been approved** - The practical effect is that we will get we will receive £4500 up front and a further £1500 in accordance with the stage set out in the letter.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following were provisionally agreed at the NPSC meeting:

- 4. JH to lead on the contract and managing the consultants.

5. KW and DE to lead project planning, cash flow forecasting and budget management.
6. CC to lead on our input on design code, environment and green space.
7. LM and AM to lead on communications and stakeholder engagement.
8. TC to organise meetings, take minutes and be the link to SNDC and the PC.
9. Any formal communications that are issued need to come from the clerks email and therefore should be forwarded to TC for sending.
10. Next NPSC meeting is on 6th May.

Matters for PC consideration:

- 7 PC to be updated on progress (see above)
- 8 PC to agree a proposal of using the PC website to promote a “Have your say” page. Comments can then be collated and discussed at the NPSC meetings. **Reason for proposal:** the purpose of the NP is to be inclusive, and community led. We should keep the website updated on the progress of the NP so the community know what is happening and are apprised of any developments. The current size of the steering committee is about right but any meetings the NPSC have should ideally be ‘open’ meetings which anyone can attend and comment.