

**MINUTES OF KIMBERLEY AND CARLETON FOREHOE ANNUAL PARISH
MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 20TH MAY 2022 AT 7PM
AT CARLETON FOREHOE CHURCH**

The Parish Council Chairman, Colin House, presided and the following Councillors were present:-

Joy Smiley, Graham Mann, Jane Fraser and Val Evans. The Parish Clerk, County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury, District Councillor Richard Elliott and 3 members of the public were also present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 28TH APRIL 2021

The minutes were read, agreed and signed by the Chairman, proposed by Jane Fraser, seconded by Joy Smiley, all in favour.

3. PRESENTATION BY STEVE BECKETT: KIMBERLEY CONSERVATION AREA

Steve Beckett, South Norfolk Council, gave a presentation on the review of the Kimberley conservation area. Steve noted that the Kimberley Conservation Area was last reviewed and designated in 1994. It is suggested that the areas are reviewed, and that the local community is engaged. A walkabout had taken place in March 2022 to look at how Kimberley had changed. A publicity exercise would take place in July, potentially with an exhibition in Kimberley Church showing maps and general points of interest. This would also be reproduced on the website. If there were any additional people who should be consulted then they could be put into the process.

It was suggested that the footpaths should be included, and these could be included as part of the appraisal. This included those that were considered 'lost'. A member of the public with good historic knowledge of Kimberley offered to assist with the appraisal. Steve would forward the information on the exhibition to Joy Smiley for the Group News, and to set the dates for displaying this in the church.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's Report was presented by the Chairman (copy annexed to these Minutes ref: **Appendix A**).

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Report was presented by the Clerk (copy annexed to these minutes ref: **Appendix B**).

6. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The report was given by Richard Elliott, District Councillor (copy annexed to these minutes ref: **Appendix C**). South Norfolk Council were looking at local delivery hubs for service delivery instead of the traditional single council building.

7. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The report was given by Margaret Dewsbury, County Councillor (copy annexed to these minutes ref: **Appendix D**).

8. REPORT FROM KIMBERLEY FETE COMMITTEE

The report was given by Joy Smiley, (copy annexed to these minutes ref: **Appendix E**).

9. REPORT FROM CARLETON FOREHOE FENLAND CHARITY

The report was given by Val Evans, Trustee (copy annexed to these minutes ref: **Appendix F**).

10. REPORT FROM KIMBERLEY CHURCH

The report was given by Joy Smiley (copy annexed to these minutes ref: **Appendix G**).

11. REPORT FROM CARLETON FOREHOE CHURCH

The report was given by Jane Fraser (copy annexed to these minutes ref: **Appendix H**).

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A member of the public asked when the mitigation proposals would be decided? There were no dates set yet, and the consultation by Norfolk County Council would be made via an exhibition and online information. Information would be published on the website as it was received. A lot of work had been undertaken by particular councillors, especially as the traffic modelling and mitigation had only considered the parishes north of the A47 and not in the south. A number of mitigation measures were being negotiated. Traffic could not be controlled, and the Council did not want the road to be reclassified as an A road. The consultation may be later than previously hoped due to delays with the Western Link going to Cabinet.

A member of the public noted that there were issues that had not been covered in the mitigation, reporting that he had seen surveys relating to construction, and noted that the short section for 30mph. He felt that the word 'mitigation' was not appropriate. The member of the public was advised that he had an old report. The member of the public asked who would update sat nav systems, it was confirmed that this would be through the Department for Transport.

The member of the public gave lengthy views regarding the mitigation, the work of the Task Force and the lack of communication regarding this matter.

It was suggested that money should be spent on benches on the Green in Kimberley.

The member of the public gave his views on the running of the Parish Council and left the meeting.

A member of the public expressed concerns about the width of the road, some of which was single track and required an escort, and the additional vehicles would be of concern. It was confirmed that assessments would be made, and that these points needed to be brought up to Highways England during the consultation.

Concerns were raised regarding the non-observation of the road closure, and the expectation that local residents would police the road. It was hoped that a speed limit reduction would dissuade drivers from using those roads.

It was noted that it was better to try to get some mitigation for the road, than allow a situation to happen and then complain about it at a later date. The mitigation was to help all villages, and would not be perfect, but would be better than nothing.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Chairman's Report

I hope you are all able to keep safe and well as we all learn to manage our lives around the continued threat of C-19 and its variants. The changes we have made to our previous habits and routines coupled with the vaccine programme has, I am sure, made a great contribution to avoiding serious illness or worse.

Your Parish Council resumed having face to face meetings, conducting them at Barnham Broom Village Hall over the winter months as both of our parish churches are less than comfortable on cold evenings.

As you will have been aware, drainage works to alleviate flooding close to Kimberley crossroads/The Green, have been completed apart from making good any settlement. The works were finished ahead of schedule and apart from a few inconsiderate road users the disruption was controlled well by a conscientious team. Let us hope the scheme will achieve its aims.

Much of the Parish Council's work this past year has revolved around obtaining undertakings from NCC highways officers to mitigate the effect of additional traffic flow following the duelling of the A47 from Easton to Tuddenham/Northern link road. Val Evans and Jane Fraser have been dedicated to fighting both our parish's corner and the draft mitigation proposals were approved at the A47 Task Force meeting on 27th April 2022 in the Wymondham Council Rooms. The document will now be put forward for approval by NCC and it will then form part of the items for discussion in the public consultation process.

The proposed mitigation is :-

A 30mph speed limit to the north and south of Barnham Broom

- A 20mph speed limit in the area around the Barnham Broom crossroads
- Mitigation to ensure these speed limits are adhered to
- An HGV ban within Barnham Broom
- Safety improvements to B1108/Wymondham Road junction including the closure of Dark Lane between the B1108 & B1135
- A 30mph speed limit to the parish gateways on the B1135 at Kimberley towards Wymondham
- Extension of 40mph on B1108 through Kimberley towards Norwich to the brow of the hill in Forehoe Wood
- A 30mph speed limit along Tuttles Lane and Chapel Lane in Wymondham, extending beyond the B1135 bridge past the allotments & sewage works

All of these measures serve to make 'rat running' to the south of the A47, towards Wymondham and the A11 less appealing to motorists.

My thanks as always go to Joy, Jane, Val, Graham and our ever knowledgeable and conscientious parish clerk, Catherine.

Colin House

Summary of Parish Council Accounts 2021/22

Receipts

	<u>2020/21 (£)</u>	<u>2021/22 (£)</u>
Precept & Shortfall Grant	2,300.00	2,258.00
Grants & Fund Raising	830.00	447.86
VAT Reclaim	358.00	0.00
TOTAL	3,488.00	2,705.86

Payments

	2020/21 (£)	Budget 2021/22 (£)	Actual 2021/22 (£)
Churchyards	350.00	350.00	350.00
Insurance	326.09	175.00	329.15
Salary	1,080.60	1,200.00	1,175.20
Admin Costs	68.00	122.00	30.09
Audit	45.00	40.00	40.00
Subscriptions	122.03	125.00	122.03
Training	45.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	145.10
Fen Lease	0.00	5.00	5.00
Contingency	0.00	106.00	0.00
TOTAL	2,036.72	2,123.00	2,196.57
VAT	349.20	0.00	28.62
Defibrillator	1,701.00	135.00	126.00
TOTAL	4,086.92	2,258.00	2,351.19

Bank Reconciliation

Opening Balance at 31st March 2020	1,084.05
Total Income	2,705.86
Total Expenditure	2,351.19
Closing Balance at 31st March 2021	2,158.72

Earmarked Reserves

Community Infrastructure Levy

447.86



Dear resident,

Your local District Council was responsive and flexible enough to ensure that every resident and business was looked after during the Pandemic. Every bin was collected. The fridges of the needy were filled. But with the difficulties of lockdown receding behind us, we now have a detailed plan for the recovery that ensures that South Norfolk is a great place to build a business or raise a family.

Our plan is focused on every Parish in South Norfolk with opportunities for towns and villages to invest in infrastructure whilst protecting and enhancing our environment with low-carbon opportunities and projects that help everyone enjoy our open spaces, public realms and lead healthy and active lifestyles.

My annual report explains how we will be doing that as part of a whole plan to make South Norfolk one of the best places to live in the Country.

Moving on from Covid

When the chips were down, the District Council was there for all our 120 parishes and the residents and businesses in each of them.

For many, the weeks spent in lockdown have become a distant memory. Whilst Covid may have become less dangerous as a result of the vaccination programme, the hangover remains and, as the Country gets back on its feet, the District Council is playing a leading role in supporting local businesses, families and individuals.

During lockdown, we distributed over £1m per week to thousands of local businesses to sustain and keep them alive to the point of recovery. Retail and hospitality businesses had special attention including some businesses which fell through the gaps of the national schemes, for example beauticians and dentists. As a result, our local economy is best placed to recover.

A third of our staff were redeployed to support families and individuals – whether it was Gym instructors helping our refuse crews ensuring that no bins were missed or other staff seconded to the Norfolk & Norwich working as orderlies in the Hospital.

Our Help Hub went much further than elsewhere to ensure those in most need were supported, especially coordinating volunteers to ensure the vulnerable with families in other part of the country were looked after.

As Covid recedes, the cost of living is becoming harder, so we have set-aside hundreds of thousands of pounds for families who find themselves in an unexpected crisis over-and-above our normal financial support via Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support. This

includes one-off help with rental deposits, fuel payments and other expenses for those in severe financial distress. If you become aware of someone really struggling, we can help.

Ukrainian Evacuee Crisis

Big Hearted South Norfolk families represent about a third of all the offers of help in Norfolk in the Homes for Ukraine scheme. As Ukrainian men fight to defend our way of life thousands of miles away, we have a responsibility to provide security for their women, children and the elderly.

South Norfolk Council was the first in East Anglia to make arrangements to use Council Offices as a reception centre for displaced families. Whilst the national bureaucracy has been frustrating, it's our local job to ensure that the Ukrainians land on their feet whilst also making sure that host families are supported with a network that is focused on maintaining the matches until our guests are ready to return home.

It isn't all about Ukrainians though. Local families can find themselves in need, so we have just embarked on a £100k refurbishment of our short-term temporary accommodation aimed at families who find themselves in a muddle or for the victims of domestic violence. This short-term accommodation provides a breathing space whilst our officials work to sort out the problems and get a long-term roof the heads of the vulnerable.

Business as Usual

Both Covid and the Ukrainian crisis have shown how a flexible and responsive Council can respond to unexpected events to keep local families safe and secure. But we must not forget the importance of supporting the economy and enhancing our environment.

We know that many voluntary, sporting and community support groups suspended action for 18 months. But now they need help to get started once more and breathe life into worthwhile community projects that were paused.

So, we have a four-prong plan to support community and parish groups reinvigorate the social infrastructure in our towns and villages.

Tripling the CAF Fund

Our Community Action Fund provides one-off capital grants to community groups to enhance community facilities or projects. Up to £15,000 can be awarded to any one scheme but grants of £5,000 are the most usual size. This year we have tripled the total budget to £150,000 and will be shortly inviting bids from Parishes and local Groups. We will be focusing this money on smaller parishes who are less likely to have large Community Infrastructure Levy receipts held by the Parish Council. We expect to be able to award funds in July so if you're aware of capital proposals from parish organisations, environmental, sports or social clubs please ask them to call me.

CIL Loan Fund

Larger settlements have received tens or hundreds of thousands of pounds from developers paying an infrastructure levy for homes built in their area. Oftentimes this money is paid over several years so it's difficult to know when a Parish or Town can make a start on

mitigating the cumulative impacts of local growth. We know that infrastructure improvements should be made up-front so we have started a process where we will lend nearly all the expected amount of CIL received by a parish up front so improvements can be started immediately rather than waiting for years. Details will be announced in June.

CIL Co-investment fund

And in our larger settlements, we will also be inviting proposals for larger schemes over £100,000 where we will match the Parish Council's CIL with our own money as a grant to make a real difference to local facilities. The details are being worked up and we plan a conference in June to explain how parishes can get going rather than waiting to get infrastructure delivered.

We estimate that our £6m scheme should be able to at least double that with CIL money received by Parishes to create a £12m infrastructure boost at very local level. We will be explaining what sort of ambitious proposals will qualify for co-funding in June together with our estimate of how much CIL you will likely receive over the next 5-10 years.

Carried forward member grants

Finally, our popular scheme of ward member grants provides £46,000 to be spent on micro projects across the district. Each Councillor has £1000 to award to schemes with minimal paperwork and instant payment to support play groups, community cafes and other small-scale activities that make a big impact.

Support for our Environment

With energy prices being what they are, reducing energy consumption and planning for a post-carbon world is not just good for our environment but it's also good business. So, we are ensuring that our local economic recovery is a green one. And we're making sure the Council is playing its part in moving to a post-carbon world.

Every Parish Invited to have solar chargers

We will shortly be inviting every single parish or town that wants to install electric charging points to have one, called off from a bulk contract that we are currently negotiating. At the moment, only residents with off-street parking in their gardens can benefit from an electric charging point. That's not fair on people who live in terraces, flats or apartments where they can never guarantee to park right outside their home.

So, we will be seeking to work with Parishes or Village Hall committees to host charging points. The details around insurance, billing and maintenance will be explained in the next few months. Whilst we work up the details, take a moment to think where you'd put a charging point in your village or town.

Elsewhere we are increasing the number of points in our own public car parks and at out leisure centres so there is robust coverage for everyone, not just those with long gravel drives.

Improving and enhancing the Wherrymans Way

The environment isn't just about being low-carbon. We are spending some of the CIL money raised from developers to improve the Wherrymans' Way footpath along the River Yare between Norwich and Reedham Ferry. Making access to the Countryside easier is a good thing and especially if it encourages healthy and active lifestyles.

We hope that people will want to walk between Norwich and Loddon, enjoying the open air and supporting some of our riverside pubs along the way and then get the bus home. The banks along Chet River will be repaired and the footbridge replaced to make this happen.

Separately, we will be improving land at Pyes Mill in Loddon for paddleboard and picnic use as well as introducing a number of other circular walks in a 'Green Project' that will be dedicated to Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

Elsewhere, last month we opened a new 16km trail in the Wymondham area.

Decarbonising the Broads

On the Broads we will be installing electric hook-ups in popular mooring spots to support our riverside pubs but also to remove the need for boaters to run engines to charge their batteries, which causes so much noise and smoke pollution. Supporting pubs and decarbonizing the broads is just one way in which we are helping the Southern Rivers move with the times to boost environmental tourism, which supports so many local jobs.

The Low Carbon Council

We will be investing in solar panels in all our Council Buildings including our leisure centres. And we are entering into a ground-breaking contract to monitor air quality across the district with a network of linked sensors. Our refuse vehicles are now trialling new lower carbon fuels based on recycled oils to minimize emissions. Our recycling rates have never been higher and well over one third of residents have a brown bin, which diverts garden waste from landfill or incineration.

We're moving

You may have heard that we are in our fifth year of a close co-operation with Broadland Council. The joint working already saves South Norfolk taxpayers £1.2m per year – the equivalent of 15% of our share of Council Tax.

Our staff work seamlessly for the two organisations and bringing them together under one roof will not just save a further £700,000 per year, but it will reduce our energy consumption by 84%. The move is likely to take place in September. The office at Broadland Business Park is closer, quicker, better served by public transport and more convenient for two thirds of South Norfolk residents. For those who will be further away, we are opening an outreach office in Diss and equipping a mobile office with computer links and printers so that our officers will go where they are needed, rather than expect everyone to come to the office.

Boosting the Economy

When interest rates were at their lowest and before inflation became problematic, the Council borrowed £20m at fixed rates for up to 25 years to invest in projects to boost the economy. That deal already looks to be the 'deal of the century.'

We will be investing in new commercial premises to rent to growing companies close to the university as well as in Wymondham at Browick Road. It means we can build a new GP surgery in the Hethersett/Cringleford/Mulbarton area where we have secured the serviced land. We are planning significant improvements to Long Stratton and at Diss. And all of these are on top of the improvements that will shortly commence in Harleston to improve the throughfare and marketplace whilst maintaining the number of on-street parking places.

The New Local Plan

The majority of the new local plan will be received from the Inspectors in a few months. But in the 100 or so smaller settlements in South Norfolk we expect to publish detailed small-scale development proposals in August/September for final consultation. When we asked for views in the Autumn, we received over 1000 responses so that's what's taking the time on finalising the detailed plan.

Development proposals will be focused in our 47 village clusters and, in total, about 75 development sites will contain about 1200 homes – an average of 16 homes each. Clusters are groupings of villages loosely based on primary school catchment sustaining not only the schools themselves but also the social connections that drive local village life and community halls, bus services, leisure facilities etc, as well as supporting the local economies of the clusters. Small scale development in smaller villages keeps settlements alive and provides choice for those who have no wish to live in the larger towns or the city. That it helps the economic network of local plumbers, electricians and brickies is a bonus.

Our work continues and I am proud that our Council combines all this with amongst the lowest council tax for a district council in the country.

I would be pleased to receive feedback or answer questions about your Council and can be contacted at Richard.elliott@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk.

With best wishes

Richard

Councillor Richard Elliott
South Norfolk Council Member for Wicklewood Ward

Norfolk County Council highlights for 2021/22

- 70% of Norfolk streetlights converted, or work underway to convert to LED
- 96.7% of highways inspections completed within timescale
- 99.6% of dangerous highway defects dealt with within timescales set out in the Transport Asset Management Plan
- 94% of Looked after Children (LAC) with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan
- Completed 51,000 Adult Social Care Assessments for 20,700 people.

The 2022/23 Budget

A **£464 million** net revenue budget, a **£25m increase** from last year, with increased spending across key service areas and capital programmes, along with a 2.99 per cent Council Tax rise has been agreed to enable Norfolk to build back better after the pandemic.

Adult Social Services will see an additional **£35.4m** of investment, against savings of £10.5m, **Children's Services** will receive **£23.2m** of further investment, with a **further £10m** this year for the **SEND School Programme**, with £12m against planned savings and **Community and Environmental Services** will see an additional **£11.2m**, against savings of £3.5m.

Within Community and Environmental Services there will be the **£10m pothole fund** to draw upon, **new recycling centres** across the County, **£5m on library upkeep** and extension of services and **£12m on the Better Broadband project**.

There has been substantial **Beryl Bikes and E-Scooters** uptake during the past year, with the average journey being over 3.5km (taking multiple car journeys out of the City) and multiple Local Cycling, Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPS) plans being developed across the County (including Greater Norwich, King's Lynn, Great Yarmouth and Dereham).

These commitments are in keeping with my Conservative Groups 2021 Manifesto pledges to deliver a better future for Norfolk through:

- Protecting valued services
- Investing in care services
- Strengthening community resilience
- Leading on economic development
- Supporting families and young people
- Caring for our environment

Protecting Valued Services

Love Norfolk, Hate Litter – boost for pickers as litter can now be accepted at recycling centres

As the national Great British Spring Clean launched on 28th May 2021, there was good news for litter pickers as the county council announces that it was able to accept litter at any of Norfolk's recycling centres.

From the 28th, anyone who picked a small amount of litter in the county was (and is still able to) bring up to three bags of the waste to a recycling centre for disposal. People looking to organise a group litter pick are still urged to contact their district council who can help provide bags, grabbers and arrange for collection of the waste collected.

£29m 'pothole prevention' work now well underway across Norfolk

Pavements, cycleways and roads all benefited from the county's £29m maintenance programme taking place right across Norfolk this year.

The crucial upkeep work is a key part of the £42 million budget for roads and infrastructure that was agreed in February 2021.

This year £4.5m is being spent on maintaining pavements and paths, for example a £167,000 scheme to remove the existing worn and uneven pavement surface on Kennedy Avenue in Gorleston and replace it with a new smooth asphalt surface will be getting underway in late July.

Brand new £1.9m Norwich South recycling Centre opens today

Norfolk's newest recycling centre opened to the public in December.

The £1.9m recycling centre is the sister site to the new Norwich North recycling centre that opened on 22nd September. Together the two sites will provide improved recycling facilities for the growing greater Norwich area.

As the new Norwich South recycling centre opens at Harford, just off the A47/A140 junction, staff bid farewell to the old site at Ketteringham that closed yesterday.

The move to a larger site allows room for a one-way traffic system to smooth traffic flow and reduce queues, low-level bins meaning people will not have to climb steps to recycle their waste, and there is plenty of parking for cars, bicycles and vehicles with trailers.

Fire and Rescue staff presented with awards

The achievements of staff across Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service have been recognised through employee awards.

A ceremony to present the awards was cancelled due to the pandemic, so senior leaders have visited some of the recipients of the 2021 awards individually and will continue to do so when Covid-19 restrictions allow.

As well as honouring staff with long service awards, categories also included fundraiser of the year, making a difference awards and leadership accolades.

Council wins national award for its work with the armed forces

Norfolk County Council has been recognised for its outstanding support of the armed forces community in Norfolk, following an announcement from the Ministry of Defence.

The local authority has been given the Gold Award, the highest honour handed out through the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.

The award is given to organisations that employ and support those who serve in the armed forces, service leavers, veterans and their families, with the Gold Award also acknowledging the Council's partnership working through the Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Board.

This includes successfully addressing a significant gap in the dental service provision in the West of the County. It negotiated with the Ministry of Defence and NHS England, to ensure the opening of a new dental practice for serving and civilian families at RAF Marham and the surrounding area.

Investing in care Services

Plan to tackle adult social care's winter pressures

Plans to support Adult Social Services with the expected "winter pressures" have been unveiled.

A report was heard by Norfolk County Council's Cabinet in December saying that Adult Social Services across the country are facing unprecedented challenges. However, here in Norfolk practical solutions are being put in place.

The report said: 'Norfolk Adult Social Services face a level of unprecedented challenge in 2021/22 as a result of the pandemic, with national and local workforce shortages, rising demand in hospitals and the community and the continued infection risk posed by COVID-19 as well as other recurring respiratory viruses such as flu.'

Adult Social Services received 20,279 calls for support between April and October this year – an increase of 9,400 over four years.

Action being taken by the Council includes:

- Expanding action to support people at home or, where appropriate, in short term residential settings
- Stepping up the council's care recruitment campaign, to tackle staff shortages
- Providing wrap-around support for care settings
- Providing assistive technology, with 100 video phones sent out to homes
- Improving capacity in the Norfolk First Response service
- Supporting mental health services, with three new step down services

Norfolk to take a step closer to new integrated approach to health and care

Norfolk County Council has agreed their support for new local Health and Wellbeing Partnerships, putting local communities at the heart of health and care in their area.

Under the Health and Care Bill, Integrated care systems (ICSs) are being established in all areas of the country to drive changes that are intended to lead to better, more joined-up care for the population.

Much of the activity to deliver integrated health and care and improve the population's health will happen more locally in the places where people live and work, meaning the new Health and Wellbeing Partnerships will play a key role in driving forward this activity.

Strengthening community Resilience

A new single point of contact for flooding in Norfolk has been launched, allowing residents to report any sort of flooding quickly and efficiently

In the event of flooding residents can call 0344 800 8013 to report it.

Alternatively, residents can continue to report flooding online via [our flooding pages](#).

The new number gives residents a single point of contact and allows reports to be made swiftly.

Different agencies respond to different types of flooding, which has historically made reporting a flood by telephone more complicated when and where it is not possible to ascertain the source of floodwaters. The new number provides a single point of contact making the reporting of flooding quicker and easier.

Where there is a potential risk to life from flooding people should still call 999 immediately.

Flood Reserve Fund spending agreed

Norfolk's Cabinet considered the allocation of the council's £1.5m Flood Reserve Fund to support urgent works, repairs and to enable recommendations from flood investigation reports.

The Reserve Fund was set up in the annual budget for 2021/22 agreed by the County Council in their budget meeting in February.

The Cabinet meeting, held on 6th September, discussed the proposed allocation of the funding, including £695k for additional highway and ditch maintenance and £365k for drainage asset improvements.

This funding will be used for work on the 285,864 metres of drainage grips and 31,037 metres of kerb drains on Norfolk's highways, as well as operations to clear some of the county's 145,305 gullies that help drain rain water.

Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance formally adopts Strategy

The Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA) has formally adopted an overall Strategy, designed to enable county wide responses to flooding across all agencies involved.

The Strategy, which lays out the NSFA's vision, objectives, approach and structure, is a major milestone in the development of the Alliance, which was founded earlier this year to bring together all agencies and partners involved in planning for and responding to flooding in Norfolk.

£1million awarded to community groups across Norfolk

Community and voluntary organisations across Norfolk were set for a major cash boost as the recipients of the [Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund](#) were announced.

Norfolk County Council has handed out £1.02 million to 25 different organisations, with grants ranging £3,400 all the way up to £250,000.

In total, the fund saw 64 applications with funding requests that totalled almost £5million. This was more than double the number of applications received last year.

Leading on Economic Development

Ground-breaking partnership to provide Covid-19 recovery support for Norfolk

Norfolk County Council and New Anglia LEP were part of an ambitious cross-border project which helped to deliver a unique package of Covid-19 recovery support for local businesses and people.

The C-CARE (Covid Channel Area Response Exchange) initiative, funded by the Interreg France (Channel) England programme which has allocated €2.2m for C-CARE in Norfolk, was set to reach businesses and people that were been hit hardest in the pandemic.

Drawing on a range of expertise from local government, enterprise and tourism in the UK and France, the project supported people at risk of exclusion from the labour market and businesses at risk of closure.

C-CARE aims to reach 4,500 people and almost 2,000 businesses through its pilot initiatives which include skills training to help individuals find new routes into employment or starting a business, and advice and grants aimed at helping companies reset their business models in response to the pandemic.

In Norfolk the project will work to support over 600 people into employment or self-employment and provide support for up to 800 businesses.

Norfolk to get faster broadband thanks to new Government funding

Hard to reach premises in Norfolk are to receive between £115m and £195m of funding as part of the Government's Project Gigabit to provide 1GB per second broadband to up to 119,000 premises. Contracts will be awarded from February 2022.

Rural homes and businesses across Norfolk and Suffolk will get next-generation gigabit broadband brought to them under a £5 billion plan to level up internet access across the UK.

It means families no longer having to battle over bandwidth and will give people in rural areas the freedom to live and work more flexibly, with the speed and reliability needed to start and run businesses.

Supporting families and young people

Vulnerable young people in Norfolk have chance to take New Roads with launch of dedicated support service

A new service to support some of Norfolk's most vulnerable young people to live within families and achieve their full potential launched on 1st June 2021.

New Roads was set up by Norfolk County Council with significant investment to give young people access to a dedicated support team that sticks with them, understands them, and helps them to achieve and succeed.

Based out of two hubs, in Dereham and Norwich, the service provides young people with education, life coaching and speech and language therapy, as well as access to short term residential beds and foster care placements to help meet their needs.

The aim is to give young people stability, reduce risk-taking behaviour and help to avoid the need for long-term residential care, as well as longer term costs to themselves, the wider system and communities.

Hundreds of free activities available for children and young people this Easter

Bookings are now open for [The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun](#), a programme of free activities that will run over the Easter holidays for 5–16-year-olds across Norfolk.

The scheme is provided as part of the government's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme and is being delivered by Norfolk County Council in partnership with Active Norfolk.

After the success of HAF over the Christmas break and some brilliant feedback from parents, it's returning from 4 April though till 19 April with free activities for children eligible for means-tested free school meals. There'll be a fantastic range of activities taking place including outdoor adventure sports, dance and drama and circus skills across the county. With so many activities on offer, children will have an excellent range of ventures to take part in and may even discover a new passion.

Free online business summer school for 16-25-year-olds in Norfolk

There are so many options to choose from when leaving school - like apprenticeships, university, work experience, getting a job...

Or how about starting a business? It may seem a daunting idea at first, but there's lots of free help on offer.

Started in August 2021, the Business & IP Centre (BIPC) Norfolk, managed by Norfolk County Council's Library and Information Service, ran a free online Summer School for 16-25-year-olds to help them decide whether starting their own business might be right for them.

Plans for thousands of new school places in Norfolk

More than a dozen new primary schools could be needed in Norfolk in the next decade, to cater for growing pupil numbers in areas of development.

A report to Norfolk County Council's Cabinet highlighted the scale of school development that is likely to be needed to support Norfolk's growing communities. It addresses both demographic changes and population growth from new housing.

The report, discussed by members on 31st January, provided a snapshot of the council's plans to ensure there are sufficient school places for Norfolk children aged four to 16.

Alongside district councils, the County Council expects to secure nearly £100m in developer contributions for the proposed new and extended schools but if all of the places are needed, a further £191m would need to be found.

Some of this will be met by Community Infrastructure Levy and government grant contributions.

Inspectors praise support for children in care in Norfolk

Most children in care in Norfolk are well looked after and receive good support for their emotional and mental health and education, Ofsted inspectors have found.

A team of Her Majesty's Inspectors visited Norfolk County Council in October for a two-day focused visit of the council's services for children in its care.

In a letter detailing their findings, inspectors said that social workers know their children well, listen to them and help them to understand their experiences.

Ofsted's visit follows a [similar focused visit in 2019](#), which looked at how the council responds to child safeguarding calls and referrals. Following that visit, inspectors described the quality of decision making as "consistently strong".

Caring for our environment

Carbon cutting commitment central to new county transport plan

A plan set to drive the county's transport policy for the next 15 years was discussed by County Councillors in August.

The ambitious Local Transport Plan has at its heart the aim to support a growing economy, strengthen communities and reduce our impact on the environment.

A carbon cutting commitment is central to the transport plan which supports the county council's pledge to achieve net zero carbon by 2030, which Councillors adopted as part of the authority's Environmental Policy in November 2019.

Buzz created as pollinator paradises set for Norfolk roadsides

Tripling the number of Roadside Nature Reserves in Norfolk were among a range of green measures considered by County Councillors last July.

Fewer cuts for rural roadsides, a pollinator action plan, and 188 more roadside nature reserves are all on the cards as part of plans to boost biodiversity along roads and paths across the county.

Also on the agenda were plans to help boost cycling and walking across the county, and development of a new verge management policy which will include information for parish and town councils wishing to take on responsibility for verge cutting in their local area. The aim is to help involve local communities more in decisions about verge management near them.

KIMBERLEY FETE 2021

After cancelling the fete in June because of Covid restrictions, as these eased we were able to hold this in August and it was a great success. We were extremely lucky with the weather and had a very good turnout, although not as big as in previous years. The fete committee donated to the church and to the Ukraine Relief fund.

We will again be holding the fete later this year because of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on 21st August.

Fenland
Report for Annual Parish Meeting
Fri May 20th 2022

Charity No 244712

Trustees

Val Evans , Graham Warrin

The trustees had a very informative & helpful site meeting on Jan 6th this year with the Operations Manager for the Norfolk Rivers Drainage Board (part of the Water Management Alliance), this was a follow on from meetings with other advisors last year about drainage. As a result of this we have been doing some work along the length of the main water course at one edge of the Fen.

His findings were that there is generally a good flow, with some areas of clean gravel bed, some areas of varying depths of silt, & some blockages. The fallen trees are above the level of the banks, so are not impeding the flow. There is evidence that spoil from previous ditch clearance includes some gravel, which should have been left in situ. He also identified a possible site for a reed bed.

His recommendations were to do any work by hand to maintain the profile of the dyke, to clear up to 80% of the partial blockages while encouraging meanders as habitats for invertebrates & other small wildlife, & to monitor the effect. Also, to consider making cuttings/spillways into the fen as he felt that the fen may be able to store more flood water to help the flood risk downstream (which is in the Wramplingham direction) whilst improving the habitat of the Fen. He was able to give us contacts for help with any restoration or improvement projects, & possible grants.

The latest financial statement can be viewed on the charity commission website.

Val Evans

Church of St Peter, Kimberley

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2021

St Peter's Church Kimberley is a member of the Barnham Broom and Upper Yare Group which is in the Dereham in Mitford Deanery, Diocese of Norwich. The church is situated adjacent to the Village Green.

Rector, Rev'd Dr Tim Weatherstone, The Rectory, Reymersdon, Norfolk, NR9 4AG

Church Wardens	Mrs J Smiley, Mr J Hambro
Treasurer	Miss D Mutimer
Secretary	Mrs J Smiley
Team Council Reps	Mrs J Smiley, Mr J Hambro
Fabric Officer	Mr J Hambro
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs J Smiley
Dean Synod Reps	Mrs Liz Cooper
	Mrs Joan Welsby
	Mr Philip Richardson
PSO/GSO	Dr Susan Hickman
Other PCC Members	Mrs J Hambro, Mrs R Self, Miss A Sixsmith
Total PCC Members 6	Church Electoral Roll 6

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is supported by the Barnham Broom and Upper Yare Group Council. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

A Statement confirming the major risk, to which the PCC is exposed, as identified by the PCC members, has been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has had the responsibility of co-operating with the other members of the Barnham Broom and Upper Year Group in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building and churchyard.

Church attendance and review of the year

Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, there have only been seven services held in church, although on-line Holy Communion services were screened each Sunday whilst restrictions were in place. We are also grateful to have on-line Morning Prayer and Complin. There have been two weddings and a funeral. The carol service was held outside because of restrictions and a donation of £412 was sent to Warchild UK.

Fundraising

Because of the Covid pandemic Kimberley Fete was initially cancelled but when restrictions were eased, we were able to go ahead and hold this in August and it was a great success. We are grateful for the donation made by the Fete Committee. Diana Mutimer continued with her plant stall and raised a good amount from the sale of plants. We are also grateful to Diana for this contribution to the church.

Building and Maintenance

The wall behind the organ has been renovated and the sycamore tree close to the church shortened considerably because it was considered unsafe. The grass and the hedges are now being cut and maintained by Alex Mutimer and we would like to thank him for the work he does in making the churchyard so neat and tidy. The PCC would like to thank the Parish Council for its continued assistance towards the cost of churchyard maintenance. This is much appreciated. The Diocesan has asked for a drawing showing where the handrail is going to be attached to the pulpit.. Scope Joinery have been asked to provide a this.

Bankers: Barclays, 45 Market Street, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 0AL

Independent Examiner: Mr. M Gibb

St Mary's Church, Carleton Forehoe, Norfolk Parochial Church Council

Annual Report

Year ending 31st December 2021

Administrative information

A Parish in The Barnham Broom and Upper Yare Group of parishes.

Incumbent: The Reverend Dr Tim Weatherstone

Chairpersons: Reverend Dr Tim Weatherstone or Rev Dr Louisa Pittman

Churchwardens: Mrs Jane Goody & Mr Ivan Revell-Burrows

Number of persons on the Electoral Roll 8

No Services were held during the first 3 months of the 2021 due to Covid 19 virus restrictions. Services resumed subject to Covid regulations in April through to November, including a wedding in July. Christmas services were cancelled, in consideration of everyone's welfare due to the unpredictability of congregation numbers.

The greatest disappointment was that, like many churches within the Barnham Broom and Upper Yare Group, St Mary's was not able to hold the traditional Carol or Christmas Day Services for a second year running.

Insurance fees were paid. Share and assessment payment was paid in full.

Churchyard has been maintained throughout the year, with tall nettles cleared in September. Hedges trimmed late summer.

St Mary's applied for a faculty to realign two ancient monuments in the church yard to ease maintenance.

Organ was tuned. Eradication of cluster flies within the church.