



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood Parish Council

Thursday 19th December 2024

Present: Dot Machin (Chair), Steve Bennett (Vice Chair), Peter Key, Norma Knight

Also Present: Anne Tandy, Parish Clerk and RFO

Members of the public: 3

1. Welcome and apologies for absence received from Jan Davis; attending a full Council meeting at Broadland Council meeting, Brenda Pawsey; taking part in a Christmas Carol Concert and Kevin Francis; work commitments.
2. There were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda or requests for dispensations
3. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st November 2024 were considered and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. The meeting was adjourned for public forum and reports from the County and District Councillors:
 - a. District Councillor – Appendix A
 - b. County Councillor – Appendix B
 - c. Presentation from the Chair of the Village Hall Committee in support of agenda items 7 and 12:
Update: The planning application was submitted on Tuesday and will be live tomorrow. Phase 3 to commence which is fundraising for the construction. It is anticipated that this will be carried out over the next two years. The planning application will open up funding opportunities. A request is made for funding from the Precept which will show other funders that the community is prepared to support the project. Also spoke on behalf of the Committee to support the grant application from Social Moments Enterprise. Council asked a number of questions to clarify the request made at Item 7.
5. To report matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda: for information only
6. **Planning**
An update on matters relating to planning decisions was noted.
7. **Cantley Village Hall Committee**
The management committee's request to access the precept for funding towards the new village Hall by way of a Public Works and Loan Board loan for between £130,000 and £150,000 payable over 50-60 years was considered. Discussion took place around the benefits of having a new village hall, alongside the financial impact of the increase on the precept, the long-term commitment and the ambitious facilities being proposed. The main points were:
 - This is a significant sum of public money but the Parish Council has not been included in the decision making for this project. If the Committee were considering such a large sum of money from the Parish Council it's input should have been requested from the start in order to represent the views of the community.

- The financial risk, given that the Council does not have any ownership of the land or building and has relinquished its responsibility as a custodian trustee, is considered to be high. If the Charity folds or the land or building is sold during the 50-60 year term the Council would be left to pay the remainder of the loan.
- The Parish Council has a responsibility to Limpenhoe and Southwood residents who would also be impacted financially by this and in the interests of fairness the Council could not then sustain a similar request from Limpenhoe Village Hall.
- The Council will have no control over the project and is unaware of what contingencies will be in place to cover unforeseen circumstances. Should the project not be completed, the Council will be left with a loan but no community asset to show for it. Council is fully aware of the circumstances of another, similar project in Norfolk which has run into difficulty.
- The Council can see the merit in establishing a new village hall, as the current provision has reached the end of its functional use and is costing money to patch up and keep running. However, the project is considered to be very ambitious for the size of the community, particularly as the Parish does not fall into the development area of Norfolk and will not benefit from any significant amounts of CIL or s.106 money to support the project. The Council may be willing to consider a smaller loan amount over a shorter period of time with the support of the Community. All agreed.

8. Staithe Charity

The Clerk gave an update on the progress of the application to the Charity Commission. All the policies agreed at the last meeting have been submitted. The main queries to return were around the fee structure for the moorings and the water safety provision. A safeguarding policy is being drafted for approval and further information regarding fees has been submitted. A telephone call with CAN is to be scheduled for the New Year to discuss further. Applications have been invited for moorings next year and 1 has already been completed and returned.

9. Limpenhoe Village Hall Committee

A request for a donation towards the refurbishment of the Limpenhoe Village Sign at a total cost of £350.00 was considered. It was proposed by Dot Machin that a contribution of £250 be given. Seconded by Steve Bennett. All agreed.

10. Limpenhoe and Cantley Parochial Church Council

- a. A request for a donation towards the grass cutting at Limpenhoe Parish Church at a cost of £450.00 was considered. As this sum has been budgeted for this year was proposed by Peter Key that this be paid. Seconded by Norma knight. All agreed.
- b. A request for a donation towards the hedge cutting at Limpenhoe Parish Church at a cost of £165.00 was considered. It was proposed by Steve Bennett that as this has not previously been funded by the Council, it will not be paid on this occasion. Seconded by Dot Machin. All agreed.
- c. A request for a donation towards the grass cutting at Cantley Parish Church at a cost of £360.00 was considered. It was proposed by Steve Bennett that this be paid as per the budget. Seconded by Peter Key. All agreed.

11. Limpenhoe Village Green

An update was given by the Clerk on matters relating to ownership of Limpenhoe Village Green. Paperwork regarding the original land transfer attempt has been provided to the Clerk and a contact at the Open Spaces Society (OSS), who was involved in advising on this, has been provided. The Clerk will make contact to discuss possible ways forward. The latest advice regarding fly tipping from the OSS is that legal advice should be obtained as to how to proceed. The Clerk will make contact with nplaw and obtain quotes for this work to be undertaken.

12. Grant Application

A request for a grant from Social Moments Enterprise for £6,000.00 towards the launch of a project at Cantley Village Hall to support families in the area was considered. It was discussed that this sum is beyond the maximum allowed by the Grant Policy. Whilst the Council could see that this project might be beneficial to the community, it is not clear how successful it would be and what the uptake would be. It was proposed

by Peter Key that the Council's small Precept could not support this request and that the grant is not supported at this time. Seconded by Norma Knight. All agreed.

13. Highways and Transport

- a. There was nothing to update on matters reported to Highways at this time.
- b. The SAM2 report for November 2024 was noted.

14. Net Zero Communities.

No update was available for the meeting.

15. Upgraded Email Domain

Costs of maintaining access to the original email and website domain to aid the migration and protect the Council from fraudulent use, at a cost of up to £50.00 pa was agreed by all.

16. Precept

It was resolved to agree the precept figure for 2025/26 as £14,000. This is an annual increase of £12.30 on Band D properties. All agreed.

20:19 Brenda Pawsey arrived.

17. Finance

- a. The bank reconciliation to 30 November 2024 was noted.
- b. The cost of £50.00 to deliver a tree for planting at the Staithe was not approved. Peter and Steve will collect.
- c. The following payments were proposed for payment by Peter Key . Seconded by Norma Knight. All Agreed.

Voucher	Date	Ref.	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
84	19/12/2024	BACs	Legal Fees – Staithe Land	nplaw	101.50	20.30	121.80
85	19/12/2024	BACs		Cantley Village Hall	12.00	0.00	12.00
86	19/12/2024	BACs		MiJan Limited - Easy PC Accounts	32.50	0.00	32.50
87	11/12/2024	Direct Debit		Hugo Fox - website	9.99	2.00	11.99
88	19/12/2024	BACs	Website and emails	Parish Online	215.00	43.00	258.00
89	19/12/2024	BACs	WAH/Travel	Anne Tandy (Clerk)	48.50	0.00	48.50
90	19/12/2024	BACs	Ink Cartridges 50%	Anne Tandy (Clerk)	26.75	5.35	32.10

18. Correspondence

- Norwich Western Link project update x2
- Reedham Ten - Sunday 19th January 2025
- Broadsheet Issue 237 - December 2024
- Upcoming Temporary Closure of The Common in the Parish of Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood due to Anglian Water work for a new water connection (my ref NTRO8687)
- Consultation on Broads Authority Design Guide and Code Supplementary Planning Document
- Merry Christmas from the Chairman of Broadland Council
- BDC Monitoring Officer - Guidance on the six-month rule for Councillors
- NCC - Share your thoughts about the place you live..?
- Adult Learning courses for December, January, and February - Broadland area

19. Items for the Parish Council Meeting's Agenda on **Thursday 16th January 2025** at 7.00pm at **Cantley Village Hall**.

- Appoint an Internal Auditor for 2024/25.

Meeting ended 20:28

Signed

Date

Appendix A

Broadland District Councillors Report for Cantley, Limpenhoe & Southwood Parish Council Meeting – 19 December 2024

BDC are running a budget consultation which is open until 20 December. For more information and to have your say go to: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/council/broadland-district-council-budget-consultation-202526>

BDC runs an exercise referral scheme called Broadly Active which offers a range of supervised sessions with qualified and experienced professionals. The scheme can help people to lose weight, strengthen muscle, reduce the risk of falling and help manage or improve a range of medical conditions. For more information see: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/broadly-active>

Postwick with Witton PC has been successful in their bid to secure funding from the Greater Anglia Customer and Community Infrastructure Fund to carry out a feasibility study for the upgrade of a walking, wheeling and cycling route between Postwick and Brundall railway stations. The Greater Norwich Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) identifies the scheme (GN/07) as a cycling and walking route using quiet roads and existing public rights of way to provide wider connectivity between Postwick and Brundall. The tender for the study has been issued with a deadline of submission by 20/12/24. The feasibility report to be submitted by the end of March 2025. Postwick PC has established a sub-committee chaired by Cllr Julie Smith. They, and the appointed consultant for the study, will be keen to work closely with Brundall PC and local landowners.

The BDC Electoral Arrangements committee have noted the new **County Divisions** in use for the Norfolk County Council elections due on 1 May 2025. The new Blofield and Brundall County Division includes the parishes of Brundall, Postwick, Strumphaw, Blofield, Hemblington and South Walsham. The parish of Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood is included in the revised Acle Division.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England will be undertaking an Electoral Review of Broadland **District Council**. This will consider the electoral arrangements for the district including the number of councillors, the number of wards, the boundaries between wards, the names of each ward and the number of councillors elected to each ward. The process involves extensive consultation, and the final report will be published in June 2026.

We have completed the following surveys: Norfolk County Council (NCC) Short Journey Travel Habits Survey, NCC Budget Consultation and Street Light Consultation, Norfolk Police Budget Consultation, NCC Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025 Public Questionnaire.

13 new projects in Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk are being put forward for funding from the Greater Norwich Growth Board via pooled Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts. The project in Brundall Ward is for improvements to Buckenham Ancient Woodland. For more detail see: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/projects-across-greater-norwich-are-set-to-share-more-than-4-million-in-funding>

The GNGB has also agreed to recommend putting £1.5m from the Infrastructure Investment Fund towards the delivery of a new School of Oral Health at the University of East Anglia.

Yare Valley Churches in Brundall have been awarded a Winter Pressures Grant of £350 towards providing hot drinks and a Warm Space at their community café and toddler café.

Businesses in Broadland have donated toys, gifts and vouchers to the BDC Help Hub for families who are experiencing hardship.

Tots 2 Teens are running activities over the Winter Holidays including Artzone sessions on 27 December and 30 December at Margaret Harker Hall in Biofield. For more details see: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/t2t>

BDC is undertaking work to address Health Inequalities across the district, particularly regarding residents' living and working conditions. This complements publication of the Health Inequality Framework for Action by the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board

<https://improvinglivesnw.org.uk/norfolk-and-waveney-5-year-joint-forward-plan/strategic-frameworks/>

At the BDC Cabinet meeting on 10/11/24 it was agreed to:

Recommend to Council to adopt a new Permanent Pavement Licensing Regime with new fees and charges and policy documentation.

Recommend to Council to adopt a revised Unreasonably Persistent Complainants Policy.

Adopt a revised Whistleblowing Policy.

BDC is proposing to make some changes to the Council Tax Assistance Scheme (CTA) for 2025/26 to improve fairness and improve the way CTA is assessed. The CTA is a scheme which reduces Council Tax bills to a more affordable level for low-income households.

The Rechargeable Repairs Policy for BDC housing is being reviewed to ensure that residents understand what they are responsible for, and to ensure that BDC properties are decent places to live, with any repairs or maintenance required being carried out and charged for accordingly.

A draft Supplementary Planning Document for Custom and Self Build Housing has been prepared. It is likely to go for public consultation for 4 weeks in mid-January 2025.

The next Community Links Network meeting will feature a session from [Creativity Unbound](#) covering marketing, fundraising and community outreach. There will also be a chance to hear the latest updates from the Communities Team and network with other local community groups. The session is on 28 January 2025 from 4.30-6.30 pm at the Horizon Centre. To book use this link: <https://orlo.uk/e7X61>

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 13/12/24)

County Councillor's Report

Devolution Update

We are still waiting for the English Devolution Bill that is due to set out what sort of devolution the new government prefers and give more detail of how local government reorganisation is due to proceed.

Norfolk County Council supports Norfolk's Family Farms

The 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 on 10 December 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 takes the top spot in national highways survey for second year in a row

Norfolk has been ranked number one for the second consecutive year in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) survey, reinforcing the county's commitment to delivering excellent roads and transport services. With an impressive overall score of 49, Norfolk once again outperformed 29 other UK counties and authorities, surpassing the average score of 44.

This year, Norfolk residents have expressed high levels of satisfaction across several key transport areas, including the condition of highways, local bus services, and traffic levels. The county scored at or above the national average in 24 out of 27 Key Benchmark Indicators, showcasing the continued improvements being made in Norfolk's transport infrastructure.

Notable highlights from this year's survey include:

- **Public Transport:** Norfolk scored above the national average in nearly all public transport categories, reflecting the positive impact of the county's Bus Service Improvement Plan.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging Points:** Norfolk saw a remarkable 31.3% improvement in electric vehicle charging provision, highlighting the success of the county's Electric Vehicle Strategy.
- **Cycle Lanes:** Satisfaction with the provision of cycle lanes has soared, with Norfolk ranking first this year, up from fourth place last year. This reflects the county's dedication to active travel, including projects like the Heartsease roundabout improvements.
- **Children's Cycling Safety:** Norfolk now ranks first for the safety of children cycling to school, a significant improvement from seventh place last year.
- **Potholes and Damaged Roads:** Satisfaction with how Norfolk addresses potholes and road repairs has risen, with the county moving up to third place, up from sixth last year.

These outstanding results underscore the County Council's ongoing commitment to creating a safer, more sustainable, and user-friendly transport network for everyone. For more information, the full survey report is available on [the NHT website](#).

Norfolk Winter is here - gritters move out across the county

Norfolk's gritting fleet is currently hitting the roads for the first gritting runs of the season, ensuring the county is ready for the icy conditions forecasted. This year, for the first time ever, all 58 of Norfolk's gritters are equipped with cutting-edge auto-salting technology, which uses satellite navigation to deliver precise, efficient salting. This innovative system reduces manual intervention, ensuring better accuracy, saving time, and cutting down on waste—making the gritting process even more effective. As winter weather sets in, Norfolk County Council is launching its annual #NorfolkWinter campaign, providing vital information and tips to help people travel safely across the county. Whether you're driving, walking, cycling, or using public transport, the Council's expert highway team will be monitoring weather forecasts and sensors to make sure the right roads are treated at the right time to keep Norfolk moving.

With over 2,200 miles of road treated during each 3-hour gritting run, Norfolk's gritting operation covers all A and B-class roads, key commuter and bus routes, and even one route into every village. Additionally, the County Council ensures around 2,000 grit bins are stocked across the county for public use on pavements, cycle paths, and local roads, helping everyone stay safe.

Stay up-to-date with gritting schedules and winter travel advice by following #NorfolkWinter on Facebook, Nextdoor, and X. You can also check out gritting routes and the location of grit bins on the interactive map at www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting. For more details on how to stay safe this winter, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/winter

Norfolk County Council strives to resolve Norwich Western Link issue

The Leader of Norfolk County Council Cllr Kay Mason Billig has written to government Ministers to tell them their assistance is needed to positively resolve an "impossible position" the council finds itself in on its priority Norwich Western Link project.

This vital 3.9-mile dual carriageway, which will significantly improve transport connections to the west of Norwich, has encountered an unexpected obstacle. In March, just before the planning application for the project was set to be submitted, Natural England issued updated guidance on barbastelle bats, which are found in the area around the proposed route. This new guidance has created a challenge for the council in moving forward with the project as planned.

At a Cabinet meeting on December 2nd, Norfolk County Council reviewed the current status of the project, including ongoing discussions with Natural England. While progress is being made, the council continues to work closely with all parties involved to find a positive resolution.

This collaboration underscores the council's commitment to delivering the Norwich Western Link, a crucial infrastructure project that will bring long-term benefits to the region.

Accelerator fund gives boost to rural transport in Norfolk

A groundbreaking project supporting sustainable travel in rural Norfolk has received a significant boost, with more than £144,000 in funding from the Connected Places Catapult and the Department for Transport (DfT). This funding, secured through Norfolk County Council's support for Alchera Technologies' application to the Rural Transport Accelerator Programme, will enhance rural transport options, providing more choice and better connections for local communities.

Alchera Technologies will develop a "Rural Travel Behaviour Model," using data to gain deeper insights into the travel patterns of Norfolk's rural population. This innovative approach will help the County Council make more informed, strategic transport decisions that align with community needs. The anticipated benefits include increased economic growth for the region, greater adoption of public transport, and strong progress toward Norfolk's ambitious net-zero goals.

In addition, a second exciting project backed by Norfolk County Council has also been successful. This initiative, led by Norwich-based commuting emissions reduction specialist, Mobilityways, is supported by Transport East and Norfolk County Council. The IVORA (Increasing Vehicle Occupancy in Rural Areas) project aims to tackle the challenge of detecting car-sharing, enabling employers and local transport authorities to incentivize and boost lift-sharing in rural areas.

The trial, which is taking place at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kings Lynn, will target the 75% of staff who currently drive alone to work. Many of these employees commute from rural areas, with 40% lacking active or public transport options. With 93% of staff open to car-sharing, IVORA will use cutting-edge camera sensor AI technologies and the Mobilityways app to monitor car occupancy. The app's new incentive tool, CommuteBoost, will reward shared journeys, and innovative VMS signage will raise awareness to encourage more staff to embrace car-sharing.

These forward-thinking projects demonstrate Norfolk County Council's commitment to sustainable transport, reducing emissions, and improving connectivity across the county, creating a brighter, greener future for rural communities.

£1.5 million funding agreed for dentistry school

The Greater Norwich Growth Board has approved moving forward with an exciting new project, recommending the allocation of £1.5 million to help establish a new School of Oral Health at the University of East Anglia (UEA). Pending final approval, this funding, from the Infrastructure Investment Fund, will be used to extend the Edith Cavell Building on the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Campus. Construction is already underway on a ground floor extension that will house UEA's new Anatomy Suite, and this additional funding will enable the creation of a first-floor extension for the School of Oral Health.

The new space will be fully equipped with state-of-the-art dental chairs, clinical-grade fittings, and specialized teaching facilities, including phantom heads, a teaching laboratory, and seminar rooms. Once completed, the school will have the capacity to train 40 undergraduate students each year. With training expected to begin in September 2026, the first cohort of dental students will be fully qualified as dentists by June 2031, with the opportunity to start providing basic treatment much earlier.

UEA's extensive experience managing a successful medical school will play a key role in retaining graduates in the region. Currently, one-third of UEA Medical School graduates remain in the area long-term after qualification.

This development marks a major milestone in tackling the shortage of NHS dentists in Norfolk and promises to make a lasting impact on healthcare in the region.

Health and Wellbeing Partnership celebrates achievements

Leaders from Norfolk's Health and Wellbeing Partnerships came together to celebrate the fantastic progress made so far and to explore exciting new opportunities for the future. The event brought together a diverse group of attendees, including representatives from District Councils, Norfolk County Council, the Integrated Care Board (ICB), Primary Care Networks, and a wide range of voluntary, community, and social enterprises.

One standout initiative is North Norfolk District Council's PositiviTea drop-in events, which offer a warm, welcoming space for people to connect, relax, and receive valuable support on various issues, including financial advice, physical and mental health, care needs, and tackling loneliness and isolation.

Additionally, the Safe and Habitable Homes project is making a real difference in Norwich by providing vital support to people facing self-neglect and hoarding challenges. This initiative helps individuals who may be struggling with self-care, hygiene, health, and safety, while also addressing the impacts of hoarding, where excessive accumulation of items can create unsafe living conditions.

These efforts highlight Norfolk's commitment to improving the wellbeing of its residents and demonstrate the powerful impact of community collaboration in creating a healthier, happier future for all.

Norfolk Public health encourages people to think about their drinking habits

As we head towards the festive season, Norfolk Public Health is encouraging people to reflect on their drinking habits. Understanding what a unit of alcohol looks like and knowing how to avoid harm can help people make healthier and safer choices.

Health professionals recommend a limit of 14 units of alcohol per week. In Norfolk, although there's an overall decrease in the average amount people drink, men over 40 remain more likely to drink above this limit.

For example, a single pint of beer is generally 2 units and a medium glass of standard wine (175ml) is just over 2 units, though these can vary with the strength of the drink.

Regularly drinking more than 14 units a week can seriously affect people's health. Drinking less brings longer-term benefits, such as reducing the risk of developing heart disease, diabetes, stroke, liver damage and certain types of cancer.

Information and support to make lifestyle changes to improve health and wellbeing is available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/readytochange.

East Anglian counties partner with US city of Virginia Beach for mutual business and economic growth

Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex Councils are excited to announce a new partnership with Virginia Beach, a dynamic US city known for its thriving technology and renewable energy sectors, aimed at boosting transatlantic trade and collaboration. Virginia Beach, the largest city in Virginia, is located on the US East Coast, and the partnership marks a significant milestone in fostering international growth and innovation.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was officially signed on November 12 at the US Embassy in London by the leaders of the three counties—Kay Mason Billig from Norfolk, Matthew Hicks from Suffolk, and Kevin Bentley from Essex—alongside Virginia Beach's Deputy City Manager, Amanda Jarratt.

This enhanced partnership will span a wide range of areas, including business development, research, academia, and training. It builds on a previous 2021 MOU between the now-defunct New Anglia LEP and Virginia Beach, which facilitated joint participation in conferences, business webinars, and offshore wind training opportunities through East Coast College in Lowestoft.

With several offshore wind farms under development along the US East Coast, including the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project near Virginia Beach, the partnership is well-timed. This project has already attracted UK-based Cadeler (formerly Seajacks) to expand its presence in the US. Discussions are already underway for several exciting initiatives for 2025 and beyond, including providing support for US investors and exporters interested in exploring opportunities in East Anglia.

This MOU represents a promising new chapter in transatlantic collaboration, unlocking new opportunities for innovation, business, and renewable energy development between the UK and the US.

More on-street charging points set to be installed in Norwich

The expansion of on-street electric vehicle (EV) charging points is progressing smoothly, with the next phase of installations starting on November 25. Over the coming months, 12 new locations will see 22 additional charge points installed, bringing the total to 46 across the Norwich area by February next year.

Following a successful contract win in early 2023, Blink Charging UK has been leading the way in providing accessible on-street EV charging infrastructure across Norwich, making it easier for residents to embrace sustainable transportation. So far, 24 Blink EV chargers have been installed in residential areas, offering convenient charging options for those without private driveways or off-street parking. This initiative is a key part of the Council's broader strategy to promote EV adoption and reduce emissions in the region.

Residents in areas where new chargers are being added will receive advance notice of installation dates, and a formal public information notice will be published before any work begins. To ensure the new chargers are easily accessible, the Council may review some parking restrictions near the charging points, with any proposed changes undergoing a consultation process with local residents.

The new chargers will include advanced 22kW fast chargers (Alfen Twins) and 50-100kW rapid chargers (Delta Slimlines), both designed to be ideal for residential on-street locations. The full installation of EV chargers is expected to be completed by Spring 2025, further supporting Norfolk's transition to cleaner, greener transport options.

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.

Life-saving emergency services partnership in Norfolk shortlisted for award

A collaboration between Norfolk's ambulance and fire services, designed to provide faster medical assistance, has been nominated for a national award.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has seven fire stations across the county that respond to medical emergencies. Firefighters, trained by the ambulance service, can be sent to life-threatening medical emergencies in their communities.

This partnership is in the running for the Collaboration of the Year at the Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards. The winner will be announced on 6 December.

Since January, NFRS co-responders have been sent to 48 cardiac arrest calls, and in 40% of cases fire crews arrived ahead of paramedics. Firefighters arrived on average three minutes before an ambulance in those incidents.

In a life-threatening emergency such as a cardiac arrest, getting medical help on scene as quickly as possible increases the chances of survival.

New poetry project launches across Norfolk libraries to celebrate Norfolk as a county of welcome

Norfolk Library and Information Service has teamed up with Creative Arts East on a multi-lingual Words of Welcome Poetry Exchange, launching this month in all 47 libraries across the county. The project aims to celebrate Norfolk's cultural diversity and showcase it as a place of welcome, by inviting library visitors to read specially commissioned poems on the themes of welcome and sanctuary, and respond with their own 'words of welcome'.

National Centre for Writing have selected and commissioned acclaimed poets George Szirtes and Marjorie Lotfi to write two original poems. These have been translated into Arabic, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese and Ukrainian - some of the most widely-spoken languages in Norfolk. Beautifully designed postcards with these poems and their translations can be found in each of Norfolk's 47 libraries, for visitors to read and take home.

Library visitors are invited to respond to these poems on blank postcards with their own words of welcome and post them in the collection boxes provided. Whether it's a poem, short anecdote, simple reflection or even a picture, any contributions will be added to a growing collection that celebrates Norfolk as a place of inclusivity, belonging, and community.

Celebrating success and dedication at the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service Awards

There was lots to be proud of at this year's Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service Awards - from thousands raised for charity, volunteers making a difference in the community, to over 700 years of service acknowledged.

The annual awards recognise the efforts of fire fighters, fire staff, Trading Standards staff, their friends and families and community partners and volunteers in Norfolk.

Norfolk team wins national awards

Norfolk County Council's People from Abroad Team has won the Overall Social Worker of the Year award and gold Team of the Year award in the Children's Services category (including MDTs), after beating competition from across the country.

Friday's Social Worker of the Year Awards saw people from across England gather to celebrate positive stories of outstanding social work, creative and compassionate practitioners, and exemplary practice.

The team, which has helped more than 500 people to date, supports children and families in need, as well as adults who struggle to access traditional services due to their immigration status; resettled refugee families; and families who have no recourse to public funds.