

Report from Cllr Justine Thomas

Norfolk County Councillor for Acle Division

14th July 2026

Dear Chairman and Members,

I hope everyone has enjoyed the start of the summer.

July has been a busy month both locally and at County Hall. Alongside my responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Budget Responsibility and Chief Whip, I have continued attending parish meetings and dealing with issues raised by residents across the division.

Local Issues

I'm pleased to report that electrical waste collections at Norfolk Recycling Centres resumed on 13 July, following the temporary suspension caused by the fire at the previous processing facility. This was an issue raised by a number of residents and I know many will welcome the service returning.

I have continued to monitor County Council matters affecting Cantley and the surrounding villages. While I have not duplicated issues already covered elsewhere on this agenda, please continue to let me know about any County Council matters affecting the parish, particularly highways, flooding, public rights of way or education. Many issues can often be progressed more quickly when they are brought to my attention early.

County Council Update

The Council continues to challenge the Government's proposed Local Government Reorganisation through the judicial review process. This remains at an early stage and the Court will first decide whether permission should be granted before any substantive hearing takes place. I will keep parish councils informed as matters develop.

As Cabinet Member with responsibility for the budget, I have also been attending a number of Select Committees as the Council begins planning the 2027/28 budget. These meetings provide an opportunity to scrutinise spending proposals and ensure resources remain focused on delivering the best possible services for Norfolk residents.

Norfolk Updates

- **Electrical waste collections have resumed.** Electrical items and batteries are once again being accepted at Norfolk Recycling Centres. Residents can book a visit and find further information via the Norfolk County Council website.

- **Flood preparedness.** Flash flooding can occur during the summer as well as winter. Practical advice on preparing for flooding and reporting incidents is available on the Norfolk County Council website.
- **Big Norfolk Holiday Fun.** The summer programme runs from 20 July to 2 September, providing free activities and meals for eligible children across Norfolk.
- **Fire safety during hot weather.** Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service has issued advice to help reduce the risk of fires during the current dry weather.

Feedback

As this is still a new monthly report, I would welcome your feedback on its format and content. My aim is to provide a concise update that is useful to parish councils across the Acle Division, keeping you informed about local issues, County Council business and matters that may affect your communities.

While I may not be able to include every suggestion, I will keep the report under review to ensure it remains relevant, informative and focused on the issues that matter most to our parishes.

As always, if there is a local matter you would like me to look into, or if there is anything I can assist with, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I am always happy to help.

Kind regards,

Cllr Justine Thomas

County Councillor for Acle Division

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