

District Council Report to Wicklewood Parish Council

7 October 2024

As I will miss the opening agenda item for reports from the District Council I provide the following District Council items may be of interest and/or benefit to the local community and are reported for the information of the Parish Council and are circulated for your information.

1. Wymondham Town Centre Public Realm Consultation

The Wymondham Town Centre Public Realm Improvement Project is a joint-funded initiative between South Norfolk Council and Wymondham Town Council aimed at making Wymondham a more attractive place to visit, work and live. The vision is:

'A series of Town Centre public realm projects and enhancements to position Wymondham as a fantastic, vibrant Norfolk market town, with its special heritage, attractive for residents, businesses and visitors'

This vision is being driven by a Working Group made up of representatives from each tier of local government - the District Council, Town Council and County Council. The primary project objectives are:

- To extend the trading day.
- To enable the town centre to be more commercially viable and improve access to the town centre.
- To expand the town centre to have a variety of uses.

Views are sought from local people, including neighbouring Parish Councils, to help shape the things that this project will include. A questionnaire and further details can be found by following this link [Wymondham Public Realm Consultation](#).

2. Help Hub Employability

Looking for employment, training, or volunteering opportunities can be daunting, but whatever support is needed to find a perfect career, South Norfolk Council's Help Hub is there to help.

South Norfolk Council provides a service called Help Hub Employability for people who are unemployed or soon to be unemployed, have been made redundant, looking for a career change, or leaving further education with no employment in place.

This service can support for people with:

- one-to-one information and advice
- employment-related benefits advice
- navigation to vacancies and training
- help to create a great CV and cover letter
- guidance on how to apply for a job and write an application
- assistance with interview techniques
- support with confidence building

The service is friendly, free, and personalised to suit an individual's needs, with all the support a person needs in one place. The team will work with individuals seeking help to set small achievable goals, to enable a person to have the skills and confidence to succeed, as they are helped find a job, training, or voluntary position.

Further details can be found at the Council's website by following the link [Employability - Broadland and South Norfolk \(southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk\)](https://southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/employability)

3. Yours Sincerely

Yours Sincerely is a free monthly newsletter available for all residents in South Norfolk who feel they would like additional contact, offering friendly and regular contact posted directly to recipients' addresses. Examples of content include suggestions for health and well-being, relevant news updates, how to seek support, friendly chat and quizzes.

The Help Hub are designed to assist individuals and families in Norfolk at the earliest stage possible with issues relating to them and their families. Services can include advice, guidance, support, assessments and the provision of direct services.

To be added to the Yours Sincerely mailing list, residents can self-refer or refer others in the community by emailing communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk or calling 01603 430591.

Residents will be asked for their consent to share their data with Broadland District and South Norfolk Councils before they receive the newsletter.

4. Electric Vehicle Charge Points and Solar PV grants for South Norfolk

Funding for electric vehicle charge points and solar PV is available for Parish Councils and Community organisations e.g. Village Hall Committees. Barford and Wramplingham village hall might consider the benefits that this grant funding would bring.

To qualify VCP and Solar PV installed on community buildings, car parks must have public access. Grants of up to £10,000 are available to install an EVCP

either pedestal or wall mounted with 2 sockets. There is an option to seek your own quote and back-office system or use the Dynamic Purchase System and Plug in Norfolk back-office system from Norfolk County Council.

For buildings with EVCP (through our scheme or existing) we can offer further grants of £10,000 to install solar PV. £10,000 must fund at least a 4kWp system and installers must be on the MCS database. This represents £20,000 of potential funding for the village hall for use by the community. It would provide potential income and help reduce energy costs in our drive towards a new zero future.

Apply online on the Council's website [Electric charging points - Broadland and South Norfolk \(southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk\)](https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/electric-charging-points) . Closing date is end of November, but we advise you to apply sooner. Contact the Council on environmentalstrategy@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk .

If there are any questions about these items, or any other local issues, please don't hesitate to contact me by email on Richard.elliott@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk or by telephone on 07733 002897.

Kindest regards

Cllr Richard Elliott, Member for Wicklewood Ward