

Parish Council Briefing April 2025

Nature Conservation Fund

I am pleased to inform you about the Nature Conservation Fund, a new initiative by South Norfolk Council aimed at supporting biodiversity and enhancing green spaces within our community. This pilot scheme offers grants of up to £10,000 for projects that meet specific environmental criteria.

Key Details:

1. Funding Availability:

- Grants of up to £10,000 are available for Town and Parish Councils, community groups, charities, schools, and landowners in South Norfolk.
- The fund supports projects that contribute to carbon sequestration, enhance biodiversity, and improve public access to green spaces.

2. Eligibility and Application Process:

- Interested parties must submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) and attend an online meeting with the Council's team to discuss their project proposal.
- EOI forms and guidance will be available in March 2025, with reviews starting from 1st April 2025.
- Successful EOIs will be invited to submit a full application by 31st July 2025. Notifications of successful applications will be made by 1st September 2025.
- All projects must be completed by April 2026.

3. Project Criteria:

- Priority will be given to projects that deliver one or more of the following:
 - Creation of a Miyawaki mini forest
 - Pond creation and restoration
 - Development of a circular walk

Action Required:

- I encourage Wicklewood Parish Council to consider potential projects that could benefit from this funding. This is a great opportunity to enhance our local environment and community spaces.
- For more information and to apply, please visit the [Nature Conservation Fund page](#) or contact the Climate Change and Environment Team at environmentalstrategy@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk.

Norfolk Community Safety Partnership

The Norfolk Community Safety Partnership (NCSP), which plays a crucial role in ensuring our county remains a safe place to live, work, and visit. Norfolk is one of the safest counties in the country, but we still face significant community safety challenges, including combating drug supply through county lines, domestic abuse, modern slavery, and environmental crime.

Key Details:

1. Partnership Overview:

- The NCSP brings together various organizations from across Norfolk, including local councils, policing and fire services, probation, youth offending, health, and housing.
- The partnership is hosted and managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN), ensuring efficient use of resources, reducing duplication, and improving the effectiveness of community safety efforts.

2. Safer Norfolk Plan 2025-2028:

- The Safer Norfolk Plan outlines the partnership's response to community safety challenges over the next three years.
- The plan focuses on leadership, collective action, resource sharing, and innovative approaches to make Norfolk safer for all generations.
- Key priorities include crime prevention, safeguarding and vulnerability, victim support, and addressing the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on community safety.

3. Role of the OPCCN:

- The OPCCN plays a critical role in managing the NCSP, with the Chief Executive of the OPCCN chairing NCSP meetings.
- The OPCCN staff work closely with other partnership members to address crime prevention, safeguarding, and victim support.
- The Police and Crime Plan set by Norfolk's PCC aligns with the Safer Norfolk Plan, ensuring a joined-up approach to tackling shared priorities.

Action Required:

- This update is for information about collaboration on community safety initiatives.
- For more information, please visit the [Norfolk Community Safety Partnership page](#) or contact the OPCCN at 01953 424455.

Briefing Note: Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Norfolk

Overview: The Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Norfolk is part of a broader initiative to streamline local governance by transitioning from a two-tier system (County and District Councils) to a single-tier system of Unitary Councils. This reorganisation aims to create more efficient and effective local government structures.

Key Points:

1. Devolution for Norfolk:

- The Government is proposing the transfer of powers and funding from national to local government, creating a new 'Strategic Authority' for Norfolk and Suffolk, overseen by a newly elected Mayor
- A public consultation on devolution began in February 2025 and will remain open until 13 April 2025

2. Proposed Models:

- South Norfolk Council supports a two-unitary council model: one serving Norwich and East Norfolk, including Great Yarmouth, and the other encompassing West Norfolk
- All councils in Norfolk are required to submit reorganisation proposals to the Government by 26 September 2025

3. Timeline:

- **21 March 2025:** Submission of LGR interim plan to Government (completed)
- **26 September 2025:** Submission of LGR full business case to Government
- **By 2028:** New unitary councils expected to be operational in Norfolk

Public Involvement: South Norfolk Council is committed to involving residents in developing future proposals and will carry out public consultations as the process develops

Contact Information: For further questions or clarifications, residents can email lgr-snc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk