

Wicklewood Parish Council Update

South Norfolk Council – District Councillor Parish Update

6 October 2025

1. Diss Hotel – Community and Planning Concerns

- The Park Hotel in Diss was proposed for conversion to accommodation for single adult males by the Home Office.
- Local opposition was strong; both Diss Town Council and South Norfolk Council objected to the lack of consultation.
- The proposal was withdrawn; the hotel will return to mainstream hospitality use.

2. Solar and Renewable Energy Initiatives

- East Pye Solar Project: Non-statutory consultation launched; project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
- Strategic Planning: Framework developed to guide district response to government proposals, focusing on suitable sites and protecting prime agricultural land.
- Leisure Centre Upgrades: Solar PV installations at Wymondham, Long Stratton, and Diss Leisure Centres to reduce costs and emissions.

3. Lotus Hethel Redundancies – Council Support Measures

- 550 jobs lost at Lotus's Hethel HQ.
- Joint taskforce formed by South Norfolk and Norfolk County Councils to retain skills locally.
- Support includes job search, CV help, benefit advice, apprenticeship support, job brokerage, start-up support, and hardship assistance.
- £1 million allocated for infrastructure improvements at Hethel; construction begins late 2025.

4. Norfolk Warm Homes

- Service based at Broadland District Council, supporting all Norfolk authorities.
- £3.9m allocated over 3 years to improve energy efficiency for eligible residents.
- More info: <https://norfolkwarmhomes.org.uk/>

5. Local Government Reorganisation

- Government reorganising two-tier areas into Unitary Councils.

- Norfolk councils submitted proposals: South Norfolk supports two unitary authorities; county council supports one; others support three.
- Decision expected spring 2026; new councils by 2028.
- Details:
<https://democracy.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/documents/s12664/Appendix%20A%20-%20Case%20for%20a%20Two%20Unitary%20Norfolk%20LGR%20Unlocking%20Potential.pdf>

6. Recycling Events

School Uniform Swap

- Swap shops at Wymondham, Long Stratton, and Diss leisure centres.
- Donate clean uniforms; take what you need for free.
- Details: <https://southnorfolkleisure.co.uk/our-centres/>

Electrical & Textile Recycling

- Hellesdon: Friday 10 October, 10am-2pm, Hellesdon Recreation Ground.
- Diss: Thursday 16 October, 10am-2pm, Mount Street Car Park.
- Accepted: small electricals, textiles, shoes, bags, etc.
- Not accepted: white goods, hazardous waste, soiled textiles, duvets, pillows.
- All collected items are recycled or reused; no waste goes to landfill.

7. South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan

- Submitted for independent examination on 4 August 2025.
- Latest update: Inspector's initial letter received 17 September 2025.
- Examination stages: initial assessment, hearings, modifications, final report, adoption.
- More info: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/examining-local-plans-procedural-practice/procedure-guide-for-local-plan-examinations>