

South Norfolk District Councillor – Monthly Update

February 2026

Dear Councillors,

Please find this month's update outlining developments across South Norfolk that are particularly relevant to Parish Councils within my Ward and our rural communities.

1. Local Government Reorganisation – Consultation Update

The Government's consultation on future local government structures for Norfolk and Suffolk closed on **11 January 2026**. Proposals submitted included:

- A proposal for **one single unitary authority for Norfolk**, supported by Norfolk County Council. [\[norfolk.gov.uk\]](https://norfolk.gov.uk)
- A **two-unitary model proposed by South Norfolk District Council**, dividing Norfolk into East Norfolk and West Norfolk. [\[gov.uk\]](https://gov.uk)
- A **three-unitary model** proposed by several district councils, which would see boundary reassignments affecting some South Norfolk parishes. [\[gov.uk\]](https://gov.uk)

These proposals are now with Government for assessment, and further updates will follow as decisions emerge later in the year.

2. Environmental Services – Waste, Fly-Tipping & Recycling

General information on **bin collections, fly-tipping reporting, recycling centres, and environmental quality services** remains accessible via the South Norfolk public service pages and local district guidance. If any area is experiencing recurring waste-related issues, please report them so they can be escalated promptly.

3. Council Meetings & Forward Plan Access

South Norfolk District Council maintains an open calendar of all formal meetings, agendas, decisions, and joint committee papers. This enables communities to track planning decisions, policy development, and service changes that may impact rural areas. [\[southnorfolk.gov.co.uk\]](https://southnorfolk.gov.co.uk)

4. Community Funding – General Update

A broad range of community grant programmes remains available across South Norfolk and Broadland, including ward-based funding, small grants schemes, and wider community support initiatives. Information on these can be found via the district's Community Funding overview.

[\[southnorfo...and.gov.uk\]](#)

5. *Community Action Fund (CAF)* – Second Round Now Open

A new round of the **Community Action Fund (CAF)** is now open for applications, with the following key details:

Funding Window & Deadlines

- **Applications are open now**
- **Closing date: Midnight, Sunday 22 February 2026** [\[southnorfo...and.gov.uk\]](#)

Purpose of the CAF

The fund is intended for **larger-scale community initiatives** requiring **£1,000–£15,000** in financial support to deliver local benefit. [\[southnorfo...and.gov.uk\]](#)

Decision-Making

- Applications are assessed by a **CAF Panel**, which meets **up to twice per year**.
- The entire annual budget **may be allocated at the first meeting**, so early applications are encouraged. [\[southnorfo...and.gov.uk\]](#)

How to Raise an Application

- Applications **must be raised through your District Councillor**, who submits the request on behalf of the community group or project. [\[southnorfo...and.gov.uk\]](#)
- Before submission, applicants must:
 - Review the **CAF guidance notes and ground rules**, available via the council's official downloads page.
 - Provide **separate confirmation of valid bank details** (e.g., scanned bank statement header or paying-in slip). [\[southnorfo...and.gov.uk\]](#)

Eligible Projects

While full criteria are in the downloadable guidance, typical eligible initiatives may include:

- Community facility improvements
- Rural infrastructure enhancements
- Community wellbeing and engagement activities
- Environmental or sustainability schemes

If a community group within your area is considering a project that fits these aims, please get in touch so we can begin the application process. In some instances projects initiated by smaller Parish Councils may be eligible for funding.

6. Ongoing Local Issues & Support

Please continue to share updates or concerns relating to:

- **Highways issues** (potholes, flooding, signage)
- **Planning queries**, including Village Cluster policies
- **Community safety or policing matters**

I am happy to assist with escalating issues or providing clarification on district procedures.

7. Setting the 2026/27 South Norfolk Revenue Budget and Capital Programme

The Government's 2026-28 financial settlement for South Norfolk has resulted in a significant reduction in our government grant and a flat settlement for the following two years.

Cabinet considers the draft 2026/27 Revenue Budget at its 9 February 2026 meeting. The report recommends approval of the base budget, increasing Band D Council Tax at a below inflation figure of £5 per year, and setting South Norfolk's demand on the Collection Fund at £9,881,280 for General Expenditure.

The South Norfolk Capital Programme, guided by the Capital Strategy, outlines investment across key priorities. The five-year programme includes £53.672m of planned capital investment supporting health & leisure, housing, economic development, and community enrichment. ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for South Norfolk Cabinet, 09/02/2026 09:00](#)

7. Review of the Greater Norwich Local Plan – Call for Sites

The Greater Norwich authorities—Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and **South Norfolk Council**, working jointly with Norfolk County Council—have begun the early stages of

reviewing the **Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP)**, which was originally adopted in March 2024. This review has been triggered by national planning reforms, including the Government's new method for calculating housing need and the introduction of a new **plan-making system** that changes how local plans must now be prepared.

As part of this initial evidence-gathering stage, the authorities have launched a **Call for Sites**. Landowners, developers, and other interested parties are invited to submit land that may be suitable for **housing, employment, or other forms of development**. All submissions will be assessed to determine which sites may be appropriate for allocation in the reviewed Local Plan. It is noted that in the last plan-making round, substantially more sites were submitted than were ultimately allocated.

The **Call for Sites window** will run from:
9 February 2026 (from 9am) – 23 March 2026.

This is an evidence-gathering exercise rather than a formal consultation, and the GNLP team has advised that the Call for Sites **may reopen later in the year** should additional evidence be required.

Further information on the process will be published in due course, and the Call for Sites portal will be accessible from the GNLP website when it goes live on 9 February 2026.

8. Engagement with Residents, Community Groups and Parish Councils

As your District Councillor, I am keen to ensure that the services delivered by South Norfolk Council continue to meet the needs of our rural communities. To support this, I invite **individual residents, local community groups, local business** and **Parish Councils** to raise with me any issues of concern, ideas for improvement, or suggestions about how South Norfolk's services could be delivered more effectively.

Whether the matter relates to waste and recycling, planning, environmental services, community support, local facilities, or any other area of council activity, I welcome early engagement. Your local insight is invaluable in helping me identify service challenges, highlight good practice, and promote positive change across the district.

Please feel free to contact me directly at any time if there is a topic you would like to discuss, or if there is an issue you believe the council should address. **I am always happy to listen and to take forward matters on your behalf.**

Kindest regards

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