

March - Priory Parish Council Report

Please find attached my report for the above period.

As always, if you believe I can be of help or assistance as your District Councillor please do get in touch.

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Sarah

District Council General

The North Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Partnership Fund is available to VCSE sector organisations which are based, and whose beneficiaries live, in North Norfolk District Council's boundaries.

It is recognised that the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) can play a vital role in understanding and responding to the wellbeing needs of local people they support, often providing early intervention and prevention programmes that can improve health and wellbeing. Projects should seek to reduce health inequalities and support the most vulnerable in the community.

The North Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Partnership Fund is seed funding for organisations to trial new activities, or develop existing activities, throughout the Spring and Summer 2026. It is expected that grants will provide immediate benefit, and funded action will begin without delay. Activities must be finished and funding spent by September 2026. Further details can be found here [North Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Partnership Fund | Norfolk Community Foundation](#) and the deadline for applications is 26th March 2026

Invest North Norfolk

Understands that securing the right financial support is key to driving business growth and innovation. Whether you're starting a new venture, expanding your existing business, or investing in new technology, various grants and funding opportunities are available to help you succeed.

These dedicated pages guide you through the process, ensuring you have access to the resources you need to take your business or community group to the next level [Home | INN home page](#)

Additionally the Economic Development Team

At North Norfolk District Council proudly hosted its second Inspiring North Norfolk celebration event at Jarrolds Letheringsett on **Tuesday 10 February 2026**. The event brought together businesses, partners, and stakeholders to recognise the ambition, resilience, and creativity driving the district's economy.

The event celebrated 16 outstanding businesses and individuals across four categories: Rising Stars, Entrepreneurial Spirit, Excellence in Manufacturing, and Leaders in Business. Together,

their stories show the wide range of talent across North Norfolk and the vital role local businesses play in building a strong and sustainable future.

Guests were welcomed by Cllr John Toye, Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth, who thanked Jarrolds Letheringsett for hosting the evening and paid tribute to the 'hidden gems' of the local economy; businesses that often work quietly behind the scenes but make a remarkable impact in their communities and beyond.

The evening featured guest presenters from the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses, Made Smarter East of England, and Jarrold Retail.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.

MHCLG's consultation on the future shape of local government in Norfolk closed just over a month ago. A decision on which of the three options the Government intends to move forward with was expected towards the end of March, but the timeframe is not set in stone and with County Elections now going ahead this timeframe could be in doubt.

Budget – The Budget for the 25/26 year was formally adopted at the Full Council meeting in February. NNDC Councillors voted unanimously to approve the proposed 2026/27 budget, protecting key services while committing over £10.6m in capital investment across the district.

The Council has once again succeeded in delivering a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year, due to decisions on spending and investment which have safeguarded services which residents and council taxpayers value.

This year's Local Government Financial Settlement has seen central government funding for Shire Districts under renewed pressure, with North Norfolk residents seeing a projected decrease of 23% in government funding by 2028/29.

A Council Tax increase of £5.13 per year for a Band D Property - less than 10p per week - has been agreed by Full Council. Whilst the District Council is responsible for collecting council tax, it retains only 7.3% of the revenue, with Town and Parish Councils receiving 3.8%, the Police and Crime Commissioner 14% and Norfolk County Council 74.9%.

The Council has committed to funding a series of important investments in NNDC assets and infrastructure, including temporary accommodation for North Norfolk residents facing homelessness; Newgate Lane public conveniences in Wells; Cornish Way Industrial Units in North Walsham and Cromer Pier in its 125th anniversary year.

Our financial portfolio holder said we can once again deliver a balanced budget, in the face of intense pressure on Local Authority finances. This Council's priority is financial stability, protecting essential services and ensuring North Norfolk remains resilient in the face of national funding pressures.

“In this forthcoming financial year, we will be able to continue funding statutory services as well as discretionary ones because of the tough decisions taken by this Council.

“Every decision in this budget has been guided by simple principles – put residents first, protect what matters, and plan responsibly for the future. Good services and reliable investment are what the people of North Norfolk expect and deserve from us.”

From a Parish Council perspective you will be interested to note each Councillor will soon have a personal budget to spend in their ward, similar to the awards given to County Councillors but to be spent on different initiatives – further news to follow.

Education Concerns

Residents may also be aware that at its recent meeting the District Councillors for Sheringham, Stody and Holt Wards brought a Motion to the Council regarding changes to education provision in their wards.

It is proposed to close sixth form academic studies at the secondary school in Sheringham from the Autumn term this year. Whilst also closing the Primary School in Corpusty transferring existing pupils to Reepham and Holt.

Whilst education falls under the remit of the County Council we did not feel we could let either of these events pass without raising our concerns in the strongest possible manner to those responsible for the decisions.

Sheringham Promenade

Concrete pouring has begun in Sheringham to fill the void down the East promenade, which was closed off to the public earlier this month.

The void could potentially have been caused by seawater undermining the seawall which was cast on the chalk bedrock over 70 years ago. The seawater dissolved the chalk resulting in the sand and gravel to be released from behind the seawall.

Initial concrete pouring to fill the void is believed to be successful so far. The council will determine the best route to completely fill this void which both cost effective as well practical. The Council will continue to monitor the progress over the coming weeks but is advising the public to stay clear of the area and not to cross through the safety barriers demarking the site. The section of promenade will be re-opened once the works are completed and the site is deemed safe again.

Norfolk Churches Trust

Ok so not something from the District Council but this is came to my attention and I wanted to make sure it was being promoted as far and wide as possible. Something to keep any budding young artists out there busy.



THE NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST

SCHOOL ART COMPETITION 2026

Finalists Will Be judged by a Celebrity Panel:

Susie Fowler Watt: BBC Look East presenter

Ben Youngs: former England and Leicester Tiger rugby player

Lauren Hemp MBE: professional England footballer

Entries no larger than A4 (297mm x 210mm)

All mediums, except photography, can be included

One entry per child

The competition will be divided into three age categories as follows:

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 ♦ Year 3 & Year 4 ♦ Year 5 & Year 6

PRIZES

There will be a first and a second prize in each age category:

1st prize – the school will win £500 in art equipment and the artist £100 in art equipment kindly supplied by Abacus Creative Resources (www.abacusresources.co.uk)

2nd prize – the school will win £250 in art equipment and the artist £75 in art equipment kindly supplied by Abacus Creative Resources (www.abacusresources.co.uk)

PRIZE GIVING

Prizes will be awarded at a special ceremony at Norwich Cathedral

on 17th June 2026 by Dame Emma Bridgwater

All entries must be submitted by post to: *To be received by 17/04/26*

Norfolk Churches Trust Art Competition, East Beckham Hall, Norfolk, NR11 8GA

The entrant's name, year group & school name needs to be included on the reverse of each artwork.

The Norfolk Churches Trust accepts no responsibility for damaged or lost entries

Reporting Planning issues or Highlighting General Concerns

Thank you to those of you have brought your concerns to me over the last month. Please never worry about dropping me a line or calling me if something in your local area is concerning you and you need help to fix it – if I am not aware I can't do what I can to help.