

June - 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

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.

Local government reorganisation (LGR)

Below is a short summary of the latest update on local government reorganisation in Norfolk - although I am sure your new County Councillors will also be able to update you on this from a County perspective.

The Government is moving ahead with plans to replace the current council structure in Norfolk with three new unitary councils. No final local decisions will be made until shadow authorities are established in May 2027, but planning work is now under way across the county.

For residents, this means that councils are preparing for significant organisational change while continuing to provide day-to-day services. Over the coming year, work will focus on planning, governance, and how the new councils will operate.

Key dates

- Mid-May to July 2026: councils put the programme structure in place and begin detailed planning.
- May 2027: elections to shadow councils are expected to take place.
- 2027 to early 2028: detailed design of the new councils.
- Vesting Day: the new councils formally begin operating.

However, you will have probably seen in the press that both the Conservative Group and Reform are still challenging these plans through legal channels.

There seem to be new revelations every day at the moment.

I will continue to share updates as more information becomes available and as the likely local impact becomes clearer.

New Local Plan and Existing Plan Review

I know it only seems like yesterday that we finally signed off and finished the Local Plan, but the Council has commenced early work on the preparation of a new Local Plan. The very first piece of work will be launched on the 1st of June.

- Call for Sites

As one of the very early stages in preparing the new Local Plan, the Council is launching a 'Call for Sites'. This exercise invites landowners, developers, agents, organisations, and individuals to submit land that they consider may be suitable for future development.

Sites can be proposed for a range of uses, including housing, employment, infrastructure, local green space, community and other uses. It is important to emphasise that submitting a site does not mean it will be allocated for development. All submitted sites will be assessed alongside other evidence and considered as part of a wider process to determine the most appropriate locations for future growth through the Local Plan.

The Call for Sites will run from Monday 1 June 2026 to Monday 13 July 2026 and submissions will only be accepted where they have capacity for at least 5 dwellings or represent a site area of 0.25 hectares or more. Each site must be submitted individually (multiple parcels cannot be submitted together).

Further information on the Call for Sites including how to respond, will be available from Monday morning (1st June) at: www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/callforsites

Digital Submission Process

In line with the Government's digital planning agenda, all submissions will be made online. The site boundary must firstly be drawn (plotted) on an interactive web map, and then a standardised question-and-answer format web-form will need to be completed. This approach is intended to improve consistency, ensure the right information is captured, and support efficient and transparent site assessment.

Guidance and support will be available for anyone with specific accessibility needs or requiring assistance with the process.

We would appreciate your support in communicating the Call for Sites to contacts within your communities. If you have any questions do feel free to contact us at Planning.Policy@north-norfolk.gov.uk

- Local Plan Review

On 9th March Cabinet resolved to progress a review of the adopted Local Plan under the revised local plan process introduced by the Government. The new plan-making system is characterised by a more efficient and [regulated 30-month preparation process](#), prescribed in legislation and which must be followed and adhered to. Prior to the start of the 30-month process the Council is required to undertake preparatory work as part of the early stage of preparing for Plan review, providing at least four months' notice prior to start of the formal 30-month period.

The new plan-making system is underpinned by changes introduced through the Levelling Up & Regeneration Act 2023, emerging new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), new Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), and new plan-making regulations. The Council is mandated to commence this 30-month timetable on or by 31 October 2026 and to issue a notice of intention to commence a new local plan, and an accompanying timetable, by or before 30 June 2026.

There are some tasks that need to be undertaken prior to the 30-month period in what is called the 'getting ready stage'. These tasks include preparatory work around the updated evidence base and the undertaking of a Scoping Consultation to invite feedback from stakeholders on how to engage with them and on what the Plan should contain. This scoping document is currently being drafted ahead of the anticipated consultation start date on 20 July 2026.

The scoping document will provide more information and outline of the new process, the intended timeline and many of the significant changes in national policy and approach that the Council now need to take account of in Plan-making. The document will also outline some key information around the make-up and characteristics of the district before seeking opinions on what the new plan should contain.

In particular it will invite feedback on the Local Plan Vision as the starting point of Plan-making, and the key considerations in identifying an appropriate spatial strategy to manage the overall growth requirements and distribution of development across the district. It will also seek views on how the Council could effectively engage communities given the prescribed timeline and wider digital agenda. This consultation will provide communities with an early opportunity to be involved in the Plan making stages.

The Government has been clear that Local Plan preparation should not be delayed due to LGR and officers continue to work closely with our partner local planning authorities across Norfolk on cross boundary issues and combined evidence. North Norfolk is not alone in this predicament, Great Yarmouth, Kings Lynn & West Norfolk and the Greater Norwich authorities are also all in the same situation and progressing their Plan reviews at a similar pace and to the same 30-month timeline.

Further information on the Local Plan Review is now available at: www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/localplanreview

Cromer Pier

Full Council has agreed to increase the capital programme by £2.4m to finance the refurbishment of the Cromer Pier Pavillion. This is part of an ongoing programme of works to keep the Pier in full working order and to provide a focal point for the tourism industry in North Norfolk.

Earlier this month a party was held on the Pier to celebrate its 125th anniversary. The weather that was awful at the start cleared to a lovely sunny evening.

Anglian Water Update following a meeting of the Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Anglian Water have asked us to encourage our communities to think about applying to them for funding from this fund. I know many of you are often in search of new places to try and obtain funding for community projects. **Thriving Communities Fund -**
<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/supporting-our-communities/thriving-communities-fund>

Applications for the next round of funding for between £5,000-£50,000 opened on 1st June and the deadline is 1st August. We'd welcome the council's support in sharing this opportunity and encouraging groups in North Norfolk to apply. Here is the link to apply -
<https://www.cambscf.org.uk/funds/thriving-communities/>

Storm overflow historic data

One of the biggest concerns that people continually raise with us as Councillors in relation to Anglian Water, are the number of spills and the duration of those spills across the District. Please find below the figures for the last six years which make encouraging if far from perfect reading.

Here are the validated figures for the total spills and durations (hours) recorded on our Event Duration Monitors of the storm overflows in the NNDC area for the last six years:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Spills	652	625	382	457	714	227
Total Duration (hours)	10192.73	6874.75	3302.88	3288.12	8547.57	878.259
Average Spills	32.60	27.17	13.17	15.23	23.80	7.57
Average duration (hours)	509.64	298.90	113.89	109.60	284.92	29.28

NIDAS

As part of my role at the District Council I am our representative on the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership Panel. I have recently been asked to share the information in the file attached below. The panel has a very wide brief in looking to support and ensure that specialist services are available across our communities.

NIDAS is a countywide service that supports victims of domestic abuse who are considered medium or high risk. Who freely acknowledge that they are not the only provider of this service and that there are other valued organisations who support victims/survivors of domestic abuse within the county who NIDAS closely works with to refer/signpost and practice good partnership working.

Older residents who find themselves victims are often hidden from view or isolated in rural communities and we all need to play our part in supporting them.

NIDAS Older Persons and Domestic Abuse Campaign which will be running on the NIDAS website until 28 June 2026.



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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.