

news Broadland

SUMMER 2026

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Let's go!

Council Tax
freeze p.5



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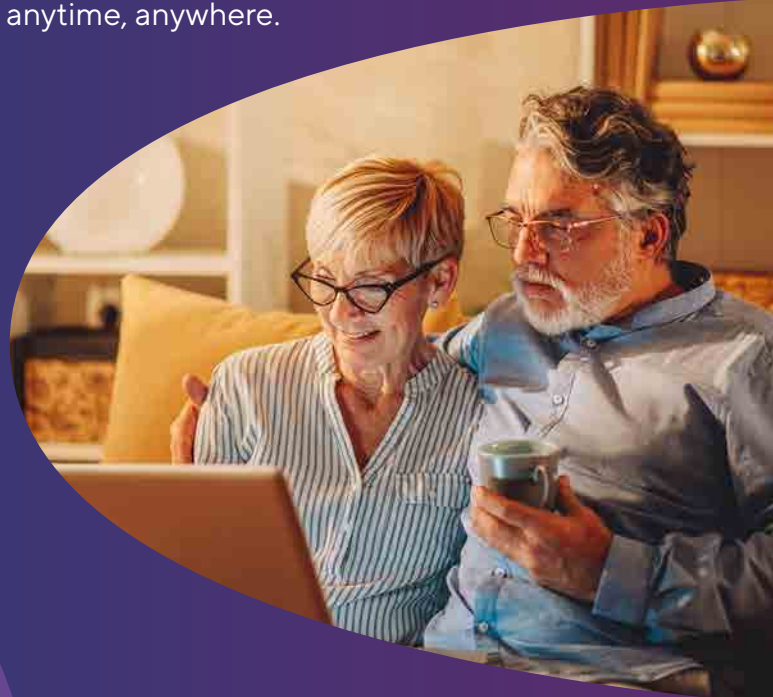
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The new system brings everything together in one secure place, allowing you to:

- access council services at a time that suits you
- submit online forms quickly and easily
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- view bills and manage your account
- update your personal details securely

Designed to save time and reduce paperwork, My Account makes managing your council services more convenient than ever.

If you haven't already, sign up today at **southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk** and start managing your council services online – anytime, anywhere.



Useful contacts

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Support for anyone who is feeling vulnerable:

- ▶ All ages
- ▶ Help with obtaining the basic essentials
- ▶ Feeling isolated
- ▶ Worried about issues at home, including relationships
- ▶ Money issues

Call the Help Hub: 01603 430431
email: helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk



Inside this issue

Celebrating the best of business	6-7
Get set for the Marriott's Way 10K	11
Nominate your local heroes	14
Country Park on track	17



A message from the leader

Welcome to the summer edition of the Broadland News.

Since our last edition of the magazine, the government has decided that from 2028 the county of Norfolk will be made up of three unitary councils and Broadland District Council will be dissolved. Our council supported the three unitary proposal as the best available option, and we will now be working hard to ensure what comes next is the best it can be for the residents of Broadland, our local businesses and for local democracy.

Change can be difficult, but I can assure you that for the next two years, we will continue to deliver the services that we know you, the residents of Broadland value so much and we will leave a legacy that honours all of the Council's great achievements from the last 50 years.

A huge part of that legacy will be the improvements we are making at Broadland Country

Park and I was so pleased to be invited to the topping out ceremony for our new café and visitor centre. This amazing project was a direct result of feedback we received from our residents, and when finished, will enrich the whole experience of visiting this wonderful community asset.

Looking after our local communities and supporting our local businesses is at the heart of what we do as a council. I would like to encourage you all to nominate your community hero for one of our awards, you have until 28 August to say thank you to that person or group that goes the extra mile to improve the lives of others.

And I would like to congratulate all of our Business Award winners and all those nominated for an award. It's your hard work that underpins our local economy and puts the vibrancy into our district.

Finally I would like to congratulate Keith Mitchell,

a member of our team who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the King's Birthday honours list. Keith has worked in local government for 48 years and has helped to deliver more than 5,000 affordable homes, helping to improve lives and enabling people to have a key to their own front door. Thank you!

Please enjoy the Broadland News and have a fabulous summer!

Leader of Broadland District Council, Sue Holland



The future of Norfolk, decided

The government has now confirmed its decision on the future structure of local government in Norfolk, selecting a model based on three unitary authorities.

In a letter sent to us on 25 March 2026, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government set out that the proposal for three unitaries was judged to best meet the government's criteria. The decision reflects a view that this model most effectively aligns with Norfolk's distinct urban, rural and coastal communities and will support the delivery of public services tailored to local needs, as well as future devolution arrangements across Norfolk and Suffolk.

Under the approved model, three new councils will be created:

West Norfolk Council
East Norfolk Council
Greater Norwich Council

These new authorities will replace the current two-tier system of district and county councils, with implementation to follow through legislation and elections expected in 2027.

Cllr Sue Holland said: "I am delighted that the government has supported our three unitary model for Norfolk. The proposal was produced by councils from across the county working together to find the best outcome for our residents and our local economy."

"We live in an incredibly diverse part of the country, with urban, rural, and coastal areas and I believe that this change will succeed in keeping local government genuinely local, reflecting the specific needs of residents and businesses, while strengthening democratic accountability and representation."

"By creating three unitaries we will ensure that the size of the authority will remain close enough to communities to deliver a better understanding of local demand and enable the continued delivery of locally designed services."

"This localised working, but on a broader scale, will have positive impacts across all our services, but particularly in priority areas like housing, health and social care, striking a balance between size and scale while protecting local identities."



Supporting our residents, when it matters

In February the Council unanimously supported proposals to freeze its share of the Council Tax for April 2026/27 budget year, making this the second year in a row that Broadland has been the only council in Norfolk not to increase the household tax.

This really positive news for everyone comes at a challenging financial time and demonstrates the council's commitment to delivering value for its residents.

Broadland District Council Cabinet member for Finance, Cllr Steve Riley, who presented and proposed the budget, said: "The government has provided local authorities with the first multi-year settlement in a decade. However, the new 'Fair' Funding Assessment has shifted funding away from areas such as Broadland towards areas of higher deprivation."

"This means Broadland will have Core Spending Power of £16.8m in 2026/27, and this will then reduce by half a

million pounds to £16.3m in each of the following two years. We remain in a challenging financial environment, with ongoing inflationary pressures and increased demand on our services – in particular we are continuing to see the need for additional support for households at risk of becoming homeless.

"However, through finding efficiencies, business case reviewing and generating income, Broadland District Council is protecting those essential services that we know our residents value so much, while investing in our key priorities."

Cllr Riley highlighted a string of achievements that underscore the Council's commitment. He said: "This administration will always put our residents first and the need to help those who don't have a roof over their heads. The Council has purchased a further 17 new housing units in 13 properties, for use as temporary accommodation



providing a better standard of accommodation whilst also saving the taxpayer the high costs of unsuitable nightly paid temporary accommodation.

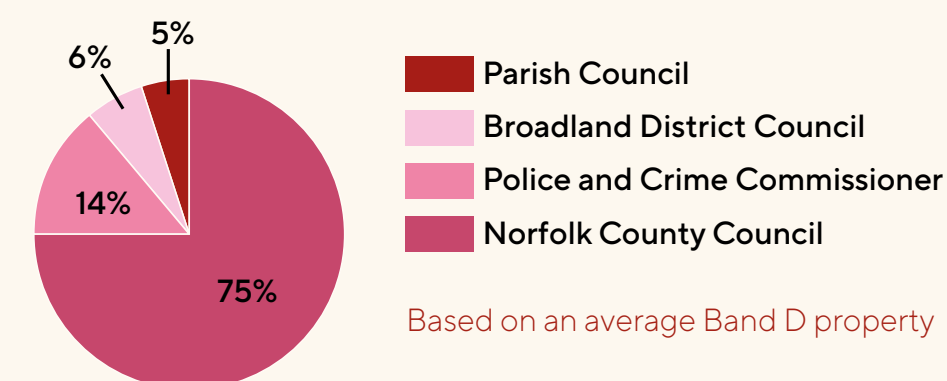
"The Council continues to fund the Community Grant Scheme with just over £60,000 invested in eight projects, and there's further support for our communities via our Ward Member Grant Scheme with £1,000 per ward member available."

"We have adopted a new Biodiversity Strategy and Climate, Environment and Biodiversity Delivery Plan, embedding nature recovery and climate action into the Council's decision making."

"And, we have invested £77,500 of UKSPF capital to upgrade five council-owned play areas across Broadland. The list goes on."

At just £134.91 for the year, or £2.60 per week, Broadland's Council Tax charge highlights the council's efficient management and dedication to serving its community effectively without placing an additional financial burden on our residents.

Where your Council Tax goes



BUSINESSES SCORE BIG AT AWARDS

The achievements of businesses across Broadland and South Norfolk were celebrated on Wednesday 18 March at the Broadland and South Norfolk Business Awards 2026, held at Norwich City Football Club. The event, sponsored by Birketts LLP, brought together business leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators from across the two districts.

Cllr Martin Booth said: "These awards highlight the incredible energy, ambition and creativity of businesses across Broadland. Every winner and finalist demonstrates the resilience and innovation that drive our local economy. We are immensely proud to celebrate their achievements and continue supporting them to grow and succeed."

The evening showcased the exceptional breadth and quality of local enterprise, with awards recognising everything from start-ups and small businesses to manufacturers, innovators and community-focused enterprises. Among this year's standout successes was Netmatters, who took home two awards, Business Innovation and Employer of the Year, highlighting their commitment to pioneering solutions and nurturing a thriving workplace culture.

BROADLAND & SOUTH NORFOLK
Business
Awards 2026

THE 2026 AWARD WINNERS

New Business
Brick Kiln Pottery

Highly Commended
Snoop Boutique

Environmental Impact
Blickling Estate,
National Trust

Highly Commended
PSH Environmental

Food and Drink Producer of the Year
The Booja Booja Company Ltd

Business Growth
Emkay Plastics Ltd

Manufacturing and Engineering Business of the Year
Delta Fire Ltd

Tourism Business of the Year
The Norfolk Mead

Employer of the Year
Netmatters

Broadland Small Business of the Year
L V Bespoke

Business Innovation
Netmatters

Insurance, Financial or Professional Services
Norfolk Wealth Management

Broadland Business Builder Exemplar
Beeyutiful Home

AS VOTED FOR BY YOU

Broadland Pub of the Year:
The Cottage, Thorpe St Andrew

Broadland Retailer of the Year:
Aylsham Garden Centre



The Councils extend their thanks to the many local sponsors who generously supported each awards category. This year's sponsors included: Pasta Foods, CNC Building Control, Big Sky Living, Hethel Innovation, The Food Enterprise Park, InTouch Systems, Norfolk Museums Service, Citrus Security Shredding, Mirus Aircraft Seating, FIG (Financial Industry Group), Jarrold

Training, Pub is The Hub, and Calibre Climate, who kindly sponsored the drinks reception.

For more details on all of the winners, visit southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/businessawards or scan the QR code.



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birketts
Next Level Law

Sweet success with Business Builder

What began as a way to support her young son's health has grown into a thriving local business for Lydia McClintock, founder of The Topsy Beekeeper, with help from our Business Builder programme.

Lydia's journey into beekeeping began after learning about the potential benefits of eating local honey for pollen allergies. As a mother, she wanted to reduce her son's daily reliance on antihistamines and was inspired by the idea that honey produced by bees feeding on flowers within a few miles of home could help ease symptoms. This idea soon grew into a small honey producing side business rooted in Broadland.

Balancing beekeeping alongside a full-time job, Lydia quickly realised that growing the business would require more efficient equipment. She had not considered applying to us for support until she was introduced to our Economic Development team, who talked her through the help available.

With the team's guidance, Lydia successfully applied for a Build Up Grant through the Business Builder programme. The funding enabled her to invest in a larger honey-harvesting extractor and additional equipment to support her expanding hive operations.

"It's not just the financial help," Lydia said. "It's having someone giving solid business advice and believing in you. It makes such a difference."

Business Builder support also helped Lydia reach new audiences. With our backing, she attended the Local Flavours event at the Norfolk Showground, giving her the opportunity to showcase her products to national suppliers and raise the profile of her business beyond the district.

Today, The Topsy Beekeeper supplies multiple local stockists and supports colonies totalling around two million

bees, with steady growth ahead. Lydia's success was recently recognised when she was named as a finalist in our 2026 Business Awards, celebrating her innovation and contribution to the local area.

Since late 2022, the Business Builder programme has supported 472 businesses, providing advice and training and awarding £2.3 million in grants across Broadland and South Norfolk up to February 2026.

Funding has recently been agreed for a new round of grants.

Local businesses looking to start, grow or invest can find out more by visiting our website or scanning the QR code.



Cllr Martin Booth said: "Supporting local businesses like The Topsy Beekeeper shows how Business Builder helps people turn great ideas into sustainable enterprises. From funding and expert advice to opportunities like the Local Flavours event, we're proud to help businesses grow, reach new markets and succeed."



NURTURING BROADLAND'S FOOD PIONEERS

Our Broadland Food Innovation Centre is making a real difference to our local economy, with more than 170 food and drink businesses supported over the past five years.

At the heart of this is the Broadland Food Innovation Centre in Honingham, a major investment we've developed at the Food Enterprise Park.

Cabinet Member Cllr Martin Booth said: "Too much of Norfolk's high-quality produce was leaving the county to be processed elsewhere. By providing state-of-the-art facilities here in Broadland, we're helping businesses stay local, add value and create skilled jobs for our residents."

"Many of our local food and drink businesses are small, sometimes just one person with a brilliant idea - and they need the right support at the right time to flourish. Here, they can access specialist production space, expert advice and a strong network of suppliers, buyers and researchers, all in one place."

Since opening in 2022, the Centre has become a thriving hub of innovation and collaboration. Its 13 production units have supported businesses such as PrepKing, Farmyard Frozen, Coastal Health and Ding Dong Dim Sum, alongside a growing number of virtual members. We've also seen collaboration grow, with the original food and drink cluster evolving into Tastebuds, now run by the University of East Anglia.

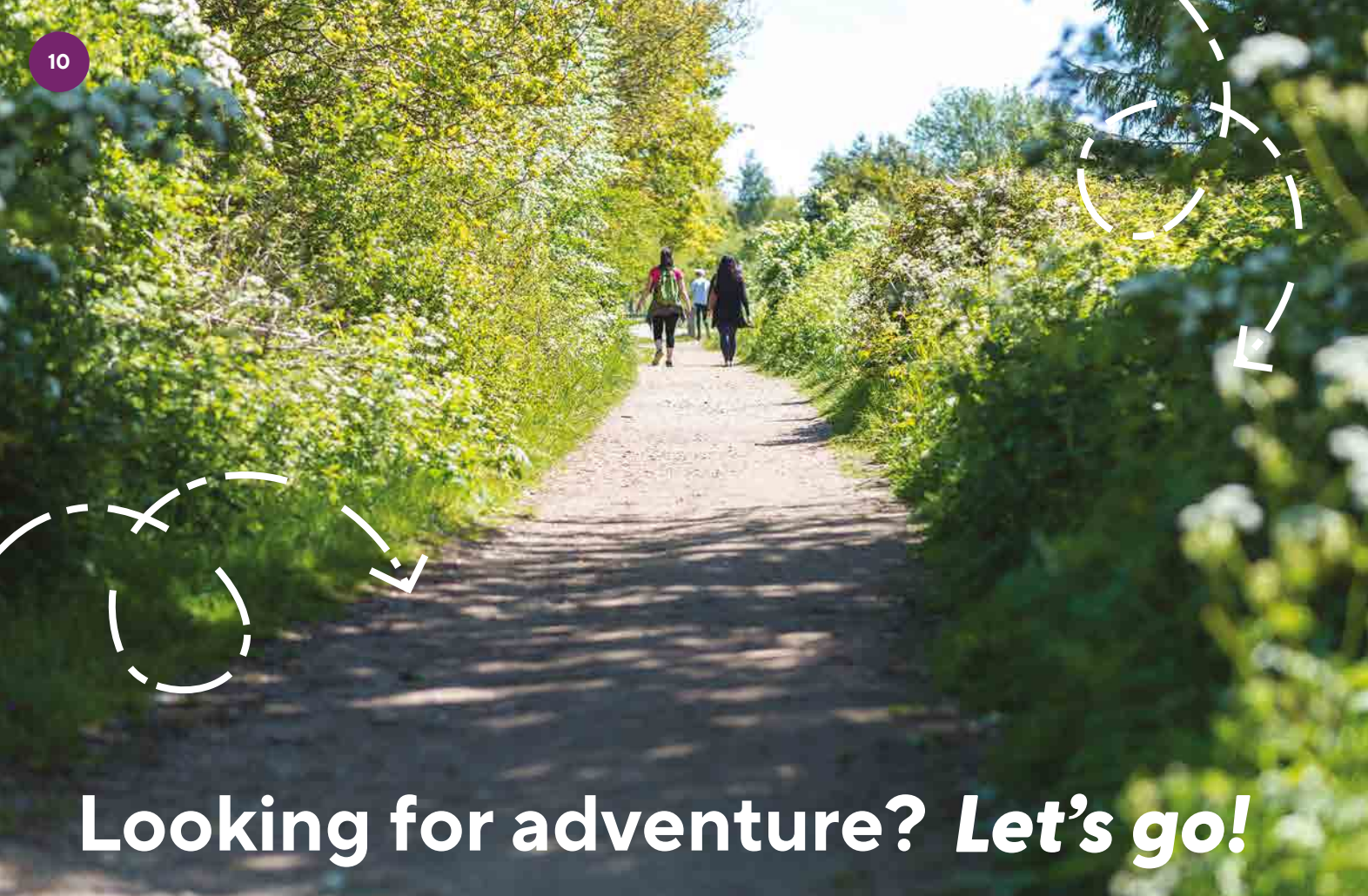
Cllr Martin Booth said: "By investing in innovation and supporting entrepreneurs, we are strengthening our local economy and championing the quality of produce we have here in Norfolk."

There's a fantastic range of facilities available, including a Test Kitchen for product development, a Sensory Taste Facility to refine recipes, and a Creative Content Kitchen launched in 2025 to support professional marketing. Alongside this, a programme of free events and workshops help businesses share ideas, build skills and showcase the very best local produce.

To find out more about the Centre, visit foodinnovationbroadland.com



Virtual tenants Grant Sharp and Owen Reynolds of Original G Sauce



Looking for adventure? *Let's go!*

We're incredibly fortunate to have some of the country's most beautiful landscapes on our doorstep, and 'Let's go!' has been launched to make exploring them easier and more enjoyable than ever, whether on foot, by bike or by boat. The new initiative encourages people to get out into the fresh air and discover the stunning countryside, market towns and activities available locally.

At the heart of the project are over 30 wonderful walks across Broadland and South Norfolk. Ranging from 2 to 7 miles, the routes suit families and casual walkers, as well as those looking for a slightly more challenging outing. Each walk showcases the area's scenery while pointing out great places to eat, drink and shop along the way.

Over the rest of this year expect more new ideas for walks and also cycle and canoe trails, offering more inspiration to explore at your own pace.

Interactive maps and walk details are available at **yes-lets-go.org.uk**, along with information on food and drink stops, museums and local attractions.



So, what are you waiting for? Let's go!

Council leader, Sue Holland, said: **"This initiative is all about helping people get fitter and healthier while rediscovering the incredible countryside on their doorstep and at the same time, encouraging more people through the doors of our cafés, pubs, shops and visitor attractions."**



GET SET FOR THE MARRIOTT'S WAY 10K



Looking for a challenge that combines fresh air, scenic views and a great cause? The Marriott's Way 10K takes place on Sunday 20 September 2026 with tickets on sale now.

Council Chairman Adrian Tipple said: "With its welcoming atmosphere and scenic route, it's no surprise the Marriott's Way 10K attracts runners from across the country. Places are limited, so we encourage people to sign up now to be part of this popular event."

The 10km trail race starts in Aylsham and finishes in the market town of Reepham, following the historic Marriott's Way. The route is flat and mostly off road, making it suitable for experienced runners and those new to running. Softer ground

underfoot and wide open views of the Norfolk countryside along the old railway line make for an enjoyable and accessible course.

By taking part, runners are also supporting local communities. Money raised through entry fees helps fund important council services, with a portion donated to the Chairman's chosen charity, Nelson's Journey.

Whether you're aiming for a personal challenge, running with friends or entering the Corporate Challenge, the Marriott's Way 10K offers a rewarding day from start line to finish.

For more information and to sign up, visit **southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/mw10k**

Sponsored by **Orsted**



SUMMER FUN STARTS WITH TOTS2TEENS

Give your children a summer to remember with our Tots2Teens holiday activities. Our fun-packed programme runs from 20 July to 2 September and offers a wide range of creative and active sessions for young people aged 5 to 16, all designed to build confidence and support wellbeing and social development.

Activities include Family Fun Days at Broadland Country Park, sports zones such as football, athletics, padel and

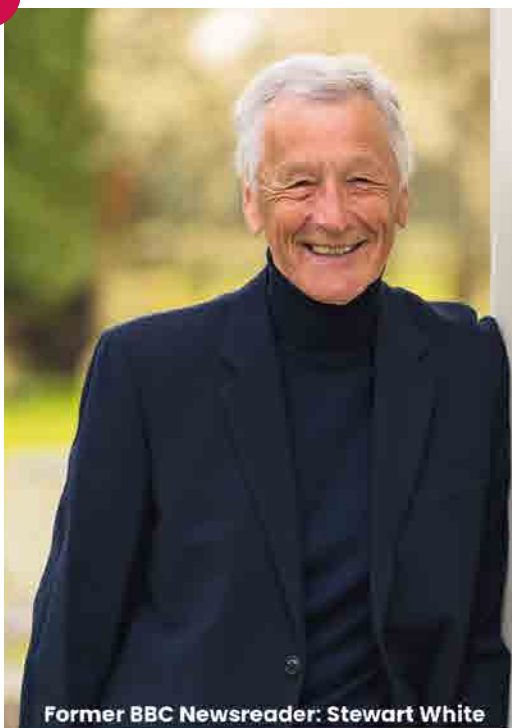
Nerf, creative workshops including pottery, printing and comic art, cookery sessions inspired by popular and international foods, and a variety of nature-based and outdoor play activities.

We offer funded sessions for eligible children through Big Norfolk Holiday Fun, with free lunches and snacks for all children. Families in Broadland on means-tested benefits may also receive a 50 per cent discount.

To find out more or book, visit **southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/t2t** or call **01603 430525**.

Updates and reminders are also shared on our Facebook page at [bdctots2teens](https://www.facebook.com/bdctots2teens).





Former BBC Newsreader: Stewart White

Stewart White: The danger isn't always the fall.

A few years ago, I fell in my garden and broke my ankle. I managed to get back on my feet, but later that night, when the pain became unbearable, I ended up at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital.

Looking back, it isn't the fall itself that frightens me most. It is what might have happened if I hadn't been able to get up.

My phone was inside the house (I was 60 yards away). Luckily, my wife was at home that day. But what if she hadn't been?

Through my work with HelpAlert, I have learned that there is a medical term for when someone falls and cannot get up or call for help. It is called a "long lie".

It happens more often than you might think and affects thousands of older people in Norfolk each year. Many are not badly injured from the fall itself. However, spending several hours on the floor can cause serious harm.

Thanks to HelpAlert, nobody has to face that situation alone any longer.

HelpAlert is a local personal alarm service. Members pay a small monthly fee by Direct Debit and wear a small watch on their wrist.

It is discreet and looks like an ordinary watch, with the time clearly displayed. If help is needed, the wearer simply presses one button. They are connected to a real person, day or night, who can arrange help and make sure they are not left on the floor.

The HelpAlert operators can speak directly to the wearer through the watch. They can contact a family member, neighbour or friend. If necessary, they can also call the emergency services.

The service works at home, in the garden, in the shower and while you are out and about. Whether you are shopping, walking the dog or visiting friends, help is always close by.

There is no need for a smartphone or an internet connection. HelpAlert is also ready for the digital switchover, so you can remain connected to help.

Most of us want the same things as we get older. We want to stay independent. We want to remain in our own homes. We also want the confidence of knowing that help is there if we ever need it.

Just as importantly, HelpAlert gives reassurance to the people who care about us.

Your local HelpAlert team is based at the University of East Anglia. Free next-day delivery is available if you are leaving hospital, have recently had a fall or simply want some extra peace of mind if you are living alone.

If you would like to learn more, simply give HelpAlert a call and ask for a free brochure. You can read it in your own time and decide whether the service is right for you.

My advice is simple: don't wait until after a fall to think about getting help. Put it in place before you need it, it could save your life tonight!

helpAlert
Fall Watch

Call for a free brochure:
01603 650603

or visit www.helpalert24.co.uk



HelpAlert is proud to be a corporate partner of South Norfolk and Broadland District Council

FUNDING PUTS MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE STAGE

Four of our councillors have joined forces to support The Black Dog Music Project, awarding £2,900 through the Members' Ward Funding scheme.

Funding contributions came from Cllr Natasha Harpley (£900), Cllr Adrian Tipple (£1,000), Cllr Bibin Baby (£500) and Cllr Calix Eden (£500), enabling the charity to hire a professional stage and technician for their annual festival, Black Dog Fest, in May.

Cllr Natasha Harpley, ward member for Sprowston Central, said: "The Black Dog Music Project does incredible work helping people reconnect, express

themselves and build confidence through music. We are delighted to support them with funding for this fantastic event, which will give more people the opportunity to get involved, perform and thrive in a supportive setting. It's a fantastic example of how Members' Ward Funding can help charities grow their impact within our communities."

The Black Dog Music Project is a Norfolk based, user led

mental health charity that helps people to develop confidence, skills and social connection through music. Participants can access workshops, one-to-one tuition and are offered opportunities to form bands and perform at events.

Chair of The Black Dog Music Project, Kerri Madders, said: "Our welcoming environment allows individuals to learn instruments, form bands and share their music in a supportive setting. Through these opportunities, people build not only musical skills but also vital qualities such as teamwork and resilience. Our annual festival, 'Black Dog Fest 26', is a key part of that journey and having a professional stage and sound system is essential. This year, our progress has been significantly supported by Broadland District Council."

Each district councillor has an annual £1,000 budget to support grassroots initiatives that enhance wellbeing and improve quality of life across their wards.

For more information about Members' Ward Funding, including how to apply, please contact your local councillor.



Celebrate Broadland's community heroes – nominate now

Our Community Awards are an opportunity to recognise the extraordinary individuals and groups making Broadland a better place to live, work and visit.

From organising local events and supporting vulnerable people, to protecting the environment, these awards celebrate the everyday heroes whose time, energy and passion make a real difference.

There are categories to reflect a wide range of contributions, including Volunteer of the Year, Young Achiever,

Environmental Champion, Community Organisation of the Year, Business in the Community, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

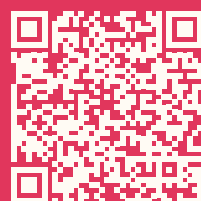
Cllr Natasha Harpley said: **"These awards are about celebrating the unsung heroes of our communities. A simple nomination is a powerful way to say thank you and shine a light on the incredible work happening across Broadland."**

Shortlisted nominees will be invited to a special awards ceremony at the Royal Norwich Golf Club on 15 October, with

winners receiving a £250 donation to give to a local charity of their choice.

If you know someone who deserves recognition, nominate now and help us celebrate the people making a positive impact in our communities.

Nominations close on the 28 August.



Visit our website or scan the QR code to nominate!



Broadland
**Community
Awards 2026**



Investing in play

Children and families in Plumstead and Thorpe St Andrew are enjoying refreshed play spaces following a major investment of nearly £90,000 in community playgrounds.

Thanks to funding from the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, improvements have been made at play areas on Kevill Davis Drive, McMillan Way and Nelson Drive in Plumstead, as well as Skippon Way and Bunyan Close in Thorpe St Andrew. The upgrades are helping to create safer and more welcoming places where children of all ages and abilities can play, explore and have fun.

Cllr Natasha Harpley said: **"Play areas are a really important part of everyday life for families and this investment is about making sure they work well for as many people as possible. By improving inclusivity, safety and appearance, we're creating spaces where children can play confidently and parents and carers can relax."**

The improvements include new and upgraded play equipment, safer surfacing, and the addition of accessible seating and benches at every site. The upgrades have been thoughtfully designed to appeal to a wide range of children, including those with reduced mobility, ADHD, autism, hearing loss, visual impairment or other intellectual disabilities. Each site has been assessed individually, taking into account what equipment was already in place and where changes would make the biggest difference.

As well as supporting inclusive play, the work has also improved the overall look and feel of the playgrounds, helping to make them more inviting community spaces for everyone to enjoy.



Future for Nature Fund – new wave of funding

We have awarded thirteen community-led environmental projects across Broadland funding through our Future for Nature Fund.

The fund supports a wide range of initiatives designed to restore natural habitats, capture carbon and improve public access to green spaces, empowering our communities to play an active role in protecting and enhancing the district's natural environment.

Cllr Jan Davis, said: **"The Future for Nature Fund empowers our communities to take action for the environment. These projects not only protect and restore vital habitats but also create accessible green spaces for residents to enjoy for generations to come. I am delighted to support our local councils and volunteer groups, together, we are building a greener, healthier and more resilient Broadland."**

The successful projects include:

- **Strumpshaw Parish Council** – To create a 2km circular walk around Buckenham Woods.
- **Wroxham Parish Council** – Planting a wildflower meadow and natural shrubs at Caen Meadow.
- **South Walsham Parish Council** – Regenerating an existing pond with support from local volunteers.
- **Little Plumstead Walled Garden Community Shop and Café** (Section 106 funded) – Restoring woodland and improving access to greenspace behind the Walled Garden.
- **Cantley Parish Council** – Restoring an existing pond forming part of a circular walking route.
- **Reedham Parish Council** – Restoring the Reedham Woodland Walk to enhance public enjoyment.
- **Brundall Parish Council** – Creating a new pond at Brundall Countryside Park.
- **Ringland Parish Council** – Restoring one ghost pond and two existing ponds.
- **Old Catton Horticultural Club** – Creating tree lined avenues in Oakfield Gardens.
- **St Faiths Community Volunteer Group** – Regenerating woodland by re-establishing drainage ditches and clearing invasive species.
- **Aylsham Town Council** (Section 106 funded) – Improving public access to green spaces through the Aylsham Green Spaces Trail.
- **Lingwood Community Garden Group** – Establishing a new community garden with orchard and a public footpath.
- **Hellesdon Parish Council** – Extending an existing mini forest and adding new shrub areas to support wildlife.

Together, these projects will share £50,804 from the Future for Nature Fund, with a further £10,000 provided through Section 106 developer contributions, bringing the total investment to over £60,000.



For more information, please scan the QR code.



Topping out marks Country Park milestone

In May, we celebrated a major step forward in the future of Broadland Country Park, with a traditional 'topping out' ceremony marking the completion of the highest point of a new visitor centre and café.

The new facility is being delivered in direct response to visitor feedback, with public toilets and refreshments consistently highlighted as the top priorities for improving the park experience. Once open, it will provide a welcoming hub for visitors to relax, refuel and enjoy the surroundings.

Cabinet Member, Cllr Martin Booth, said: "We asked our visitors how we could improve their experience, and the availability of toilets and refreshments came top of the list. We have listened, and now we are delivering with this fantastic new facility. The new visitor centre and café will be a wonderful addition to Broadland Country Park."

Sustainability has been at the heart of the design, with the Council working alongside local architects and contractors to create an eco-friendly building. Plans include renewable energy systems such as heat pumps and solar panels, alongside the use of sustainable materials, with the aim of achieving operational net-zero CO₂e emissions.

Council leader, Sue Holland, said: **"Broadland Country Park is a special place, and as custodians, it's our duty to protect this beautiful asset for future generations. This wonderful new addition is designed to increase the park's appeal as an outdoor destination where residents can spend time together, have fun and enjoy nature."**

The milestone comes during a period of significant growth for the park. Following the transfer of day-to-day management to Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the site is set to more than double in size. The addition of 114 acres at Drayton Drewray will bring the total area to over 250 acres.

The project is funded jointly by the Greater Norwich Growth Board, alongside business rates and Section 106 contributions. The café will open to the public in September.



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St Faiths Sunflowers Community Volunteer Group

Community spirit picks up

A record number of volunteers took part in this year's Big Litter Pick, with scores of events taking place across the district.

The campaign brought together volunteers of all ages, including parish groups, schools and local organisations, all keen to help keep their local communities clean and welcoming.

In total, the volunteers collected an impressive 36 bags of litter from streets, parks and open spaces across the district. Each group that took part received a £50 thank you payment and were entered into a prize draw, with ten groups winning £250.

Find out how you can organise a litter pick where you live by visiting our website.

Charging ahead to Net Zero

We are proud to announce that we have fast-tracked our commitment to the environment, bringing our Net Zero target forward to 2028. This is two years ahead of our original 2030 date and underlines our position as the regional leader in the environmental agenda.

The decision to accelerate the target by two years follows years of dedicated action. Since declaring a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency in 2023, we have integrated sustainability into the heart of all our operations.

We are already the lowest emitting local authority in Norfolk and by monitoring our carbon footprint in line with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, we have achieved extraordinary milestones since our 2018/19 baseline. These include a 77% reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions (direct energy and fuel), a 72% reduction in scope 3 emissions (indirect supply chain) and more than 1,160 tCO₂e saved in total emissions.

In 2024/25, our carbon footprint dropped to just 425 tonnes, providing the momentum needed for us to achieve Net Zero two years early.

Cllr Jan Davis said: **"By investing in local carbon-offsetting projects, we aren't just hitting a target, we are enhancing our local biodiversity and creating more green spaces for everyone to enjoy."**

The journey to 2028 is guided by a comprehensive Decarbonisation Pathway, with the focus on reducing emissions at the source. Any remaining residual emissions will be neutralised through local, nature-based offsetting schemes.

Our achievements continue to prove that with clear planning, a sustainable Net Zero future isn't just possible, it's arriving early.



Scan the QR code to find out more.

Cutting costs with new homes

We are seeing continued growth in demand for temporary accommodation in Broadland. Last year we supported 401 households, up 5 per cent on the year before. To meet this need more sustainably, we are investing in our own temporary homes, reducing our reliance on expensive nightly paid temporary accommodation while providing residents with better quality, more suitable short-term housing.

Cabinet Member
Cllr Natasha
Harpley said:

“Temporary accommodation is a vital safety net for people who become homeless through circumstances beyond their control, such as family breakdown, illness or the sudden loss of housing. By investing in our own homes, we’re giving residents a more stable place to live while also making better use of public money.”

Although not a permanent solution, this type of accommodation plays a crucial role in ensuring residents have a safe and appropriate place to stay while longer-term housing options are explored.

Over recent years, we have been expanding our portfolio of council-owned temporary

accommodation. Our two most recent projects have added 17 properties, bringing the total to 33. These include a mix of three-bed houses in multiple occupation (HMOs), two-bed family houses and two-bed flats, helping us meet a range of household needs locally.

A total of £3.25 million has been invested across the two schemes, made up of £2.77 million of council capital alongside £478,800 from central government through the Local Authority Housing Fund.

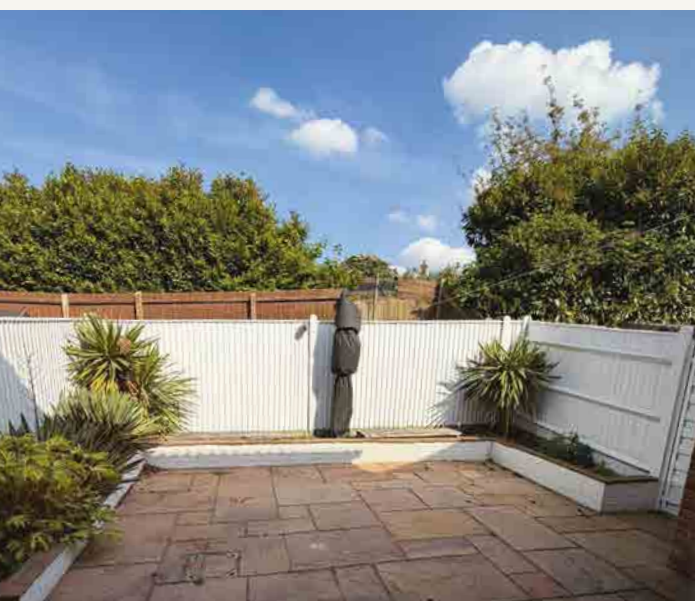
As well as ensuring support is available to residents when they need it, this approach is also delivering significant financial benefits.

Independent analysis by external company PPL shows that housing residents in council-owned temporary accommodation saves, on average, between £319 and £347 per household each week, compared with spot-purchased nightly paid temporary accommodation.

Importantly, this investment is also building a council-owned asset base that is expected to increase in value over time, delivering long-term benefits.



Cllr Harpley said: “Rather than spending money on short-term solutions with no lasting benefit, we are building an asset base that will continue to reduce costs and support residents for many years to come.”



KEEPING WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE

We have recently adopted the Women and Girls’ Safety Charter, reinforcing our commitment to making public spaces safer and more inclusive across the district.

Approved by Full Council on 21 May, the Charter sets out how we will work with businesses and community organisations to respond to safety concerns and improve confidence, particularly for women and girls.

Cllr Natasha Harpley said: “Adopting the Women and Girls’ Safety Charter is an important step in ensuring that everyone in our district feels safe, respected and able to go about their daily lives with confidence.

“We know that feelings of safety matter just as much as actual crime levels. This Charter is about listening to women and girls, understanding their experiences, and working together as a community to make real, lasting improvements.”

The move follows national evidence and local feedback showing that women and girls are more likely to feel unsafe in public spaces, especially after dark. While Broadland remains a low-crime area, we recognise that perceptions are influenced by environment, behaviour and community culture.

The Charter focuses on encouraging positive action rather than introducing new enforcement. Organisations that sign up will be supported to improve lighting and visibility, promote respectful behaviour and create welcoming spaces.

It also aligns with national work to tackle violence against women and girls and supports our Health and Wellbeing Strategy by encouraging greater use of public spaces. We will act as both a signatory and an enabler, working with partners to share good practice and track progress.

To read the Charter visit our website.

New law strengthens rights for tenants

A major change to renting in England came into effect on 1 May, when the Renters’ Rights Act became law.

The Act introduces new legal protections for private tenants and sets clearer expectations for landlords, with the aim of creating a fairer, safer and more secure private rental sector. It focuses on improving housing standards, increasing transparency and strengthening security for people who rent their homes.

If you are a tenant, the changes may affect how your tenancy works and the rights you can rely on. If you are a landlord, it is important to understand the new requirements to ensure your property and practices comply with the law.



For further information, please scan the QR code.

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Helping people feel safer at home

Since 2023, Broadland District Council has been supporting residents experiencing domestic abuse through the Sanctuary Scheme, helping people feel safer in their own homes.

Between 2023 and 2025, 148 homes within the Broadland area, received free safety and security improvements. These figures reflect the scale of need locally and show how practical support can make a real difference to people's safety, wellbeing and peace of mind.

Domestic abuse can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, background, disability, sexuality or income, and it does not always involve physical violence. It can include emotional or psychological abuse, controlling or coercive behaviour, financial abuse or sexual abuse, and it is never the victim's fault.

The scheme provides free, tailored home security measures, which may include stronger locks, door viewers, personal alarms, security

lighting or cameras. Each home is individually assessed so the support meets the person's specific safety needs.

Residents consistently report feeling safer, calmer and more confident in their homes after the work has been completed.

To find out more or request a Sanctuary Scheme assessment, visit our website or contact the Help Hub on 0808 1784 702. Referrals can be made by individuals or by professionals on their behalf.

For specialist domestic abuse support in Norfolk, contact NIDAS, phone: **0300 561 0555**, text: **07860 063 464**,

email: referrals@nidasnorfolk.co.uk, or visit nidasnorfolk.co.uk

If you are in immediate danger, always call 999.

Cabinet Member Cllr Natasha Harpley said: **“The Sanctuary Scheme plays a vital role in helping people feel safer without having to leave their home. By providing practical security measures, we can support residents to remain close to their schools, work, families and support networks, reducing the risk of homelessness and minimising disruption for children and families. For many people, being able to stay in their own home is a crucial step towards recovery.”**

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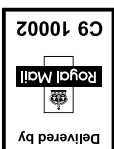
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