**District Councillors’ Report, Mulbarton Parish Council – 19th August 2024**

**Grants**

At present Member Ward Grants for 2024/25 have been fully reserved. Requests for future support with small projects (up to £1,000 usually) to benefit the local community can be made to your District Councillors.

**Flooding on B1113**

To date we have still had no response from either County Councillor Daniel Elmer or Graham Plant, cabinet lead for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.

**Natural Flood Management**

Councillors attended the session on Natural Flood Management at the Town & Parish Forum on Wednesday 7th August. Speakers from the Environment Agency and Natural England explained how farmers and landowners can use natural methods to reduce the flow of water into watercourses and indicated some of the financial incentives available.

**Hornsea 3 Converter Station**

Orsted have indicated that cabling to the site will be delivered between July and October 2025. An update on indicative dates for transformer delivery is expected soon.

**Village Clusters Update**

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| The South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (VCHAP) Regulation 19 Pre-submission Addendum was published on **Monday 12 August and runs through to 5pm on Monday 7 October 2024,**in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Representations are invited on the legal compliance and soundness of the Plan. Any representations submitted must be received by South Norfolk Council within this timeframe.The purpose of the VCHAP is to deliver growth that will support the vitality of the rural communities of South Norfolk. Following the Regulation 19 Publication in 2023 one of the proposed sites was no longer considered deliverable and another needed to be reduced in scale, which led to a shortfall in the overall target number of new homes (minimum of 1,200).The proposed Addendum includes the additional and amended sites proposed for allocation within the VCHAP to address this shortfall. The document also includes a number of other focused changes to the proposed VCHAP. The published document only deals with the changes that are being proposed to the Regulation 19 VCHAP document that was published in 2023. During the publication period, the proposed Addendum will be available to view at the following locations: * **Online -**on the [South Norfolk Council website](https://southnorfolkandbroadland.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e17bcc74a48f3ebd2d9292b7&id=d468347183&e=a27c50b7d4)
* **South Norfolk Council offices** - The Horizon Centre, Broadland Business Park, Peachman Way, Norwich, NR7 0WF (open Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm)
* **The Octagon** - Mere Street, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4AH (open Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm)
* **Libraries in South Norfolk** - visit the [Norfolk County Council website for details of your local branch](https://southnorfolkandbroadland.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e17bcc74a48f3ebd2d9292b7&id=3fddff963e&e=a27c50b7d4)
* **Millennium Library** - The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich NR2 1AW (open Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 10:30am - 4:30pm)

Supporting documents are also available to view online at the above locations. Further information and background material will also be available through a '[virtual exhibition](https://southnorfolkandbroadland.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e17bcc74a48f3ebd2d9292b7&id=458457a058&e=a27c50b7d4)' which can be accessed during the publication period.Anyone wishing to submit a formal representation on the content of the Plan may do so, in writing, **before 5pm on 7 October 2024**. It can be submitted online via the website listed above, or using one of our hard copy representation forms which are available at the locations listed above. This will help ensure that submitted representations are in the prescribed format and can be taken into account in the examination of the Plan. Completed hard copy forms should be posted to the South Norfolk Council office address listed above.For further information and enquiries, please contact the Council’s Place Shaping Team on 01508 533805 or at localplan.snc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk.  |

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**Electric Vehicle Charge Points and Solar Panel Grants**

South Norfolk Council is offering Parish Councils and community associations (eg village halls) grants of up to £10,000 for installation of an EV charge point and up to £10,000 for installation of roof based solar panels of at least 4kW. Applications close on 29th November. There is no requirement for any matched funding. Grants are not available towards the cost of battery storage.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/car-parks/electric-charging-points/2>

**Glass bottle recycling scheme**

The glass bottle recycling adopter scheme is being promoted by South Norfolk Council. Parish councils are requested to complete the following survey if they have not already done so.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=ikQbvZ9SBEqkIb1K4febsPDobLVQ-6RNnZ4ywuLSvP1UMzhSUTJDSTdWU0I2T0s0QTVOWEZLM0FVOC4u>

**Housing Allocation Policy**

The Council has agreed a revised Housing Policy Allocation which reflects the shortage of social housing in South Norfolk (and elsewhere), the growing numbers of people on the register and the lack of movement on the register. An additional prioritisation category has been introduced, and criteria for joining the register have been tightened – notably the local connection and family connection tests. Residents on the list will be reassessed in accordance with their usual 2 year review timetable. The changes will enable the following groups to be prioritised: leavers from the care system under the age of 25, and individuals moving from 3+ bedroom properties to smaller properties.

**‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update**

The consultation on the proposed pylon scheme has now closed. National Grid is considering responses. It plans to submit its final proposals in an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate in 2025.

 PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to campaign against the pylon proposals. For further information visit <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions>

**Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber**

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