**Mulbarton PC District Councillor Report 15th April 2024**

**Grants**

Applications for member ward grants for the 24/25 period and will reopen on 6th May. Applications for larger Communities Action Fund grants (£1,000 to £15,000) also open on that day.

**Leadership of South Norfolk Council**

Following his elevation to the peerage, Lord Fuller has resigned as leader of the Conservative Group of Councillors and has announced that he will stand down as Leader of the Council. Cllr. Elmer has been elected leader of the Conservative Group and is expected to be elected leader at the May Council meeting.

**Play Areas**

Matthew Yates has recently joined the Community Assets team at South Norfolk and will be dealing with play areas. He intends inspecting all of the play areas under his remit in the near future.

**Greater Norwich Local Plan**

The plan has now been adopted by all parties and is now influencing planning decisions. GNLP Policy 7.5 is expected to lead to an increase in small scale self-build and custom build applications (up to 3 units) within or close to the edge of settlement boundaries. Applications would still have to meet other planning policies.

**Food Waste Collection**

The Council is required to introduce a weekly food waste collection service by end March 2026. Some areas may start before this date. In Broadland a food collection service operates already; South Norfolk expects to follow a similar operating model: homes receive a small caddy for use in the home and a larger bin put outside for collection.

While some Government funding is being provided, this will not cover all set up and operating costs and there are expected to be financial implications for the Council. Options and costs for the service are being developed; there may be implications for development of the Ketteringham site.

**Fly Tipping**

At the recent Cleaner, Safer Environment committee meeting, it was stated that there were 780 reported fly tips in South Norfolk in 2023. Cllr Ian Spratt suggested consideration be given to the introduction of Community Skips placed close to identified ‘hotspots’ to encourage the public to responsibly dispose of larger waste items. This system has worked in London Boroughs. Feedback on the idea would be welcome.

**Long Stratton by-pass**

Work has now commenced.

**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.

Staff from Orsted, and its contractors, gave an update an update on drainage plans to Swardeston Parish Council on 11 April 2024. Orsted is currently seeking approvals for a temporary drainage solution from the Orsted site; a permanent solution is being planned. In both solutions, water is retained on site (tanks and a lagoon) and then released at a controlled flow. Orsted accepted that they were responsible for some of the early problems last year, and stated recent problems are down to issues with drainage from the surrounding fields and the A47 and the lack of drainage on the B1113. It appears that the B1113 situation requires Council action.

**South Norfolk Community Awards**

Nominations for Community Awards are now open until 19th May 2024,

  [South Norfolk Community Awards 2024 – Broadland and South Norfolk (southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)](https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communityawards)

**Pride in Place Awards**

The third and final round of awards has now closed. Over the 3 rounds over £1 million has been allocated to communities across Broadland and South Norfolk. Consideration is now turning to a possible replacement scheme.

 **‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update**

The formal consultation for this project opened on 10th April and closes on Tuesday 18th June. Full information can be found on the [National Grid’s consultation website](https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury).

A TEAMS presentation to Council members took place today. Your three District Councillors attended. When Simon Pepper of National Grid was questioned about alternative methods of delivering energy to Tilbury, such as offshore or underground, he stated that National Grid are governed by National Policy and the ‘Pylons’ option was the method they have to pursue.

There are three consultation events in Norfolk:

Ashwellthorpe, Thorpe Hall Thursday 9 May 1-6pm

Tibenham, Community Hall Friday 10 May 1-6pm

Diss, Football Club Wednesday 15 May 1-6 pm

There are also a series of on-line webinars (sign up [here](https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/public-consultation-and-programme) ) at 6pm in the evening. Those on 17 April, 29 May and 12 June (all Wednesdays) are most relevant to people living locally.

Finally, documents can be inspected at Long Stratton Library and Norwich Library.

There are few changes to the 2023 consultation, but the following may be of interest:

* 6 pylons immediately to the South of the Norwich substation have been moved westwards to higher ground, increasing the visibility of the 50m high pylons but avoiding the proposed battery storage facility near the substation; and
* an alternative to pylons for the Waveney Valley is being consulted upon to mitigate the landscape, heritage and recreational amenity effects of the pylons. This would involve underground cabling for 2km and new CSE compounds at either end of the underground section to connect to the pylons.

The consultation does not consider the viable alternative of underground HVDC cables, which was considered in the recent ESO Report.

 PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to develop their campaign against the pylon proposals and have put together some high-level advice for Parish Council’s wishing to object to the Norwich Tilbury proposal. For further information visit <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions>

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

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