**Mulbarton PC Report 20th May 2024**

**District Cllrs Report, including AGM statement.**

Following the success of Ian Spratt and Jim Webber in the May 2023 District Council elections and with Bob McClenning elected in the subsequent By-election later in the year we have been working collaboratively throughout the Ward of Mulbarton & Stoke Holy Cross to represent all of our parishes in the most effective way. We will continue to employ this approach as we move forward. Please feel free to contact either/all of us should you have any issues or concerns relating to your community.

**Grants**

Applications for member ward grants and for larger Communities Action Fund grants (£1,000 to £15,000) have now reopened. Contact your District Councillors for further information.

**Hethel Planning Applications**

The application for a new roundabout, road layout and outline approval for new production and office facilities for Lotus was placed before the DMC on 6th May. Cllr Jim Webber spoke on behalf of Bob and Ian stating that we were broadly behind the concerns expressed by Bracon Ash & Hethel Parish Council, in terms of value for money, the safety of Wymondham Road in Hethel and future shift hours on the site. We recommending the decision was deferred until more detailed information was available. The application was however passed with numerous conditions to be agreed with the planning team; this stage is expected to take several months.

**Nutrient Neutrality Update**

The Norfolk Environmental Credits company is now set up and started trading with credits of around 600 homes to date. The next big deal to be introduced is large septic tank conversion, with financial help offered to people to convert septic tanks into private treatment plants. The installer is converting a tank a day. Cost of conversion is dependent on-site size.

**Nature Recovery Plans**

South Norfolk Council is promoting a community lead scheme pioneered by Harleston Town Council. The initiative is described as follows:

“*Nature recovery is all about how we restore habitats, protect wildlife and combat climate change. It’s about building resilient landscapes for the future through natural restoration.*

*Small actions taken by ordinary people, added together can make a difference. The collective size of gardens in England is greater than the size of the nature reserves. Our actions at home do count.*”

[Link for further information](https://www.ournaturerecovery.org.uk/)

​ **CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Flood Prevention Conference**

CPRE are promoting a flood prevention conference targeted at Parish Councils. This will be held in Dereham on Wednesday 22nd May.

[Link for further information.](https://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/news/flood-management-conference-2024/)

**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.

Despite mitigation measures introduced by Orsted, it appears that the B1113 situation requires Council action. District Cllrs are also endeavouring to establish the purpose of the tall building under construction on the site following concerns expressed by many residents.

**‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update**

The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) has recently published a thoughtful report entitled “GREENING THE GREAT GRID UPGRADE. A new vision for landscapes and communities in East Anglia” which is [**available here**](https://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2024/05/Greening_the_Great_Grid_Upgrade.pdf)**.** One of the key recommendations is that work on the Norwich Tilbury project:

 “***should now be paused for review whilst need, timings and alternative solutions are investigated more thoroughly. An offshore solution (a second subsea link) or HVDC undergrounding is strongly preferred to the proposed overhead line.***”

Norfolk County Council have expressed ‘significant concerns’ but have yet to decide if it will object formally. The council’s scrutiny committee will be considering the issue soon and a decision is scheduled in June.

The three consultation events have now taken place in Norfolk. There are also a series of on-line webinars at 6pm in the evening. Registration links follow: the [webinar on 29 May](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/3aac831c-aef8-40ad-b8f2-674d0b9ba035%4046d4e256-b3be-4371-9b3c-480cbc8d7489) covers the proposed route of the pylons in North Suffolk and Norfolk; while the [webinar on 12 June](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/4b67d2f5-820e-493e-8bf0-29c1136fcf15%4046d4e256-b3be-4371-9b3c-480cbc8d7489) is an overview session.

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

 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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