

County Councillor Report for June 2026

Norfolk County Council AGM

On Thursday, 28th May, the council's AGM was held. In a close vote, the Reform UK party took minority control of the council. Councillor David Bick was elected as Council Leader. Convention would have given the position of Chair to the previous year's Vice Chair, but that position was also taken by a Reform councillor, along with the position of Vice Chair. Councillor Julian Kirk was elected as chair of the council and Councillor Mike Westman was elected as vice-chair.

Appointments were made to Cabinet positions and chairs of committees which form an important part of the decision making and scrutiny process.

The chair of the council's main scrutiny committee was taken by the Great Yarmouth First/Restore party. The two parties combined to vote together on the majority of motions, including voting as follows:

Against strengthening support for rural residents facing cost-of-living pressures and heating oil costs.

Against providing a service protection guarantee for social care, SEND provision and support for vulnerable children and adults.

Against pausing the sell-off of Norfolk's care homes and assess the investment needed to keep them under the council's control.

Against support for the protection of key public services and assets and to request fairer government funding for Norfolk.

The two parties also voted down a motion opposing local government reorganisation (LGR) which called for the proposed changes to be abandoned. They also collectively voted to review all council Net Zero initiatives.

Volunteers Week

Volunteers' Week, a UK-wide campaign to celebrate and recognise the contributions of volunteers, began on the 1st June. In Norfolk, Volunteers' Week is being extended to the whole of June through the Get Involved - Festival of Volunteering. You can [find more information about volunteering with the council here](#).

Temporary changes to electrical recycling at Norfolk Recycling Centres

Recycling centres across Norfolk are currently unable to accept most electrical waste items. A serious fire affected a waste electrical recycling facility used as part of the

national recycling system. The company who operates the site has lost its treatment facility approval and has ceased operating and as a result electrical waste cannot be legally recycled in Norfolk.

Most electrical items cannot be accepted, for now, at all of Norfolk's Recycling Centres. However, you can still bring large household appliances including washing machines, tumble dryers, dishwashers, and cookers.

Help with living costs

Help for households struggling with living costs can be found here:

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

The Household Support Fund, ran until March 2026. This has been replaced by the [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#) which will continue to provide help in a crisis. However, it has a stronger focus on helping people build financial resilience, so they are less likely to fall into crisis again.

The Crisis and Resilience service can be accessed in several ways:

- Online - [Visit Crisis and Resilience Service \(CRS\)](#)
- By phone - 0344 800 8020
- Through professional referrals from partners across Norfolk, including Age UK, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and voluntary and community sector organisations

The CRS is also delivering the Norfolk Heating Oil Crisis Fund and Norfolk residents can apply for support with oil through a CRS application.

WorkWell Service

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) is commissioning a new service called WorkWell to help people stay in work, return to work, or find a job, while looking after their health.

It will bring together health and employment support in one place, offering personalised advice and access to services such as physiotherapy, mental health support, and workplace guidance.

The ICB wants to hear from local residents, employers, and community groups to help shape how WorkWell is delivered. Feedback will ensure the service meets the needs of people who could benefit from it most.

To take part and to find out more information follow the link: [WorkWell](#)

Reporting Highway Defects

I recently met with the Highways team responsible for roads in the parish. We discussed ongoing issues with road closures and diversions, and outstanding repairs and maintenance. They were keen to highlight the various means of reporting highway defects so they can be dealt with quickly and efficiently. The following channels are available:

- **Online:** [Report a highways problem - Norfolk County Council](#) – this is the quickest and most efficient, and therefore recommended way
- **By email:** highways@norfolk.gov.uk
- **By phone:** Customer Service Centre (CSC) – 0344 800 8020 (including out of hours emergency highways support).

Using these routes ensures reports are entered correctly into council systems and reach the appropriate highways teams without delay.

Fallen trees

I have spoken to the residents who have been affected by the two trees that have recently fallen across the public footpath near the Memorial Hall. The trees along this path have previously been evaluated by Norfolk County Council's Natural Environment Team, who also undertake surveys for the Norfolk County Council Highways Department. At the time of the original Tree Risk Survey the affected trees were not identified as requiring works. However, recognising the risk to the public and anxiety this caused, BDC is taking these incidents very seriously. In collaboration with NCC, BDC will be assessing the cause of the tree failures and carry out a further risk assessment on other trees along the stretch of footpath.

Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) additional Call for Sites

In February this year, the Greater Norwich authorities (Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council, working with Norfolk County Council) opened an initial "Call for Sites". Landowners, developers, and other interested parties were invited to submit sites that may be suitable for housing, employment or other uses. There is now another opportunity to submit sites that may be suitable for future development by re-opening the Call for Sites from 15th June – 13th July 2026. The Greater Norwich authorities will assess submissions to identify which sites may be

suitable to allocate in the new local plan. The submission of a site does not guarantee it will be allocated. This will form the basis of a future public consultation.

Children and young people urged to learn key water safety tips this Drowning Prevention Week

Following a high number of drownings across the country this year, children and young people in Norfolk are being urged to learn key water safety tips ahead of the school summer holidays to help keep them safe this summer.

This week is Drowning Prevention Week, a campaign from the Royal Life Saving Society that is aimed at teaching water safety to those up to age 17.

The Norfolk Water Safety Forum has provided short lesson plans on water safety to schools across Norfolk and can be found online at:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/watersafetyresources

Free Composting Workshops

Norfolk County Council and Garden Organic are offering free composting workshops across Norfolk until September 2026, showing how easy it is to get started at home.

These two-hour sessions, delivered by our Master Composters, cover the basics of home composting, how to get the best results, and what to do if things don't go to plan.

If you can't attend in person, compost webinars are also available. [You can book your place on a workshop or webinar here.](#)

Elections on the 16th July

Elections for a new Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk will be taking place across the county on Thursday 16 July. On the same day, residents of Old Catton division will go to the polls to elect a new Norfolk County Councillor following the resignation of the councillor elected in May.

Cllr Jan Davis
Blofield & Brundall Division
Norfolk County Council

18/06/2026