Christmas bin date information inside

Autumn 2016

Win £100 hamper

Christmas is here

Your chance to win an iPad mini

www.south-norfolk.gov.uk
Our Community Awards are back and the search is on to find unsung heroes from across South Norfolk.

This is the fifth year that we have held our awards to celebrate community champions and pay tribute to the valuable contribution that volunteers make to our district.

The eight categories you can nominate people for are:
- Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- Community Fundraiser of the Year
- Business Community Champion
- Community Wellbeing Champion or Group of the Year
- Environmental Champion
- Lifetime Community Hero

Nominations close on 8 January and all shortlisted nominees will be invited to a special awards night held at Dunston Hall on 9 February. Our winners will receive grants of £250 for them to give to their chosen charitable organisation.

Visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/champions for more information. Look out for more information in the EDP.

Contact us

24 hours a day, 7 days a week
access our services online.
Visit: www.south-norfolk.gov.uk

Main Number: 0808 168 2000
Write to: South Norfolk Council, Cygnet Court, Long Stratton, Norwich, NR15 2XE
Email: council@s-norfolk.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/southnorfolkcouncil
www.twitter.com/SNorfolkCouncil

South Norfolk Freephone Numbers
Automated Touchtone Payments 0808 178 7146
Benefits and Council Tax 0808 178 7141
Business Rates 0808 178 7142
Car Park Enquiries 0808 178 7145
Housing Advice 0808 168 2222
Planning 0808 168 3000
Waste and Recycling 0808 168 3333
Flytipping 0808 168 2999
Fraud Hotline 0800 389 6109
Norfolk County Council 0344 800 8020

101 is the new number to call when you want to contact your local police - when it's less urgent than a 999 call. 101 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
So much has happened in South since we sent you the last copy of The Link.
Our award winning Reuse and Recycle events are designed to reduce waste and extend the useful life of unwanted items and that’s what happened when three wheelchairs were dropped off at our event in Diss. Our community Team knew that Wacton Parish Council was planning to apply for a grant to buy some wheelchairs.

Parish Councillor Rene Rowson explained. “We wanted the wheelchairs for any of our parishioners to use if and when the need arose. The cost would have been quite a lot, but thanks to your Reuse Events we can now offer this service to our residents, and indeed, any other villagers around Wacton. Keep up the good work, and rest assured your good works do not go unnoticed. On behalf of Wacton, thank you once again.”

Our next Reuse and Recycle event will be on Friday 9 December at Hempnall Village Hall.
**CHAIRMAN’S RECEPTION**

Council Chairman Garry Wheatley held a Civic Reception earlier this year in the Green Room in the Jubilee Building at Easton and Otley College. Garry’s guests heard from college principle David Henley, Henry Gowman from the Men’s Shed project and were then entertained by Community Champion Rachel Evans’ Zumba Team.

**SUPER SILVER SUNDAY**

In October we supported Silver Sunday events across the district. Grants of up to £200 were given to fund community led events that raised awareness of the services and support available to older people in their Communities.

**BAG IT, BIN IT**

Our Costessey Community Connectors and the Community Protection Team are running a joint project to try and tackle the issue of dog fouling in and around Costessey. We are working with the local junior school on a campaign called Bag it, Bin it. The campaign includes running a competition for the children to design posters and poems to highlight the issue. The winning entries will be used in a publicity campaign.

**KEEPING IT SHORT**

Wicklewood Lawn Green Bowls Club will be keeping things tidy following a grant of £6,000 from the Tiffey Valley neighbourhood area Community Action Fund. Councillor Peter Broome, presented the cheque to members of the club to help them purchase a new mower for their bowling green.

Chairman Mike Harris said “The upkeep of the bowls green throughout the bowling season is one of the most important tasks facing the club and the new mower amply fulfils our requirement.”

Wicklewood Bowls Club have a very active social and bowling calendar and warmly welcome new members, experienced or not. If you are interested in joining the club please call Mike on 01953602357.

**POINTING THE WAY**

At this year’s Queen’s birthday celebrations at Rushall Common, local resident Mike Holden asked Councillor Martin Wilby if anything could be done to improve the look of the signpost at Langmere crossroads. The sign was falling to bits and one arm had fallen off completely.

Councillor Wilby gave a £250 grant to pay for all of the materials and local volunteer Ron Batley restored the signpost.

Mike Holden said. “Ron has done a fantastic job on the sign. He’s a special chap, so enthusiastic and a real craftsman. The finished job looks amazing so thank you too for helping make it happen.”
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

DEVOLUTION: TIME TO DECIDE

Councils are in the process of deciding if Norfolk and Suffolk are going to push ahead with Devolution, or not.

Over the summer Ipsos MORI carried out a survey across both counties, speaking to nearly 7,000 people asking them if they thought devolution is a good idea. A summary of the result from South Norfolk is below.

To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the principle of devolution?

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<table>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tend to support</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tend to oppose</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>7</td>
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More than half of our residents support the principle of devolution; this is 4% higher than the Norfolk average and 2% higher than the Suffolk average. The highest opposition to the principle of devolution in Norfolk is seen in North Norfolk.

Each Council who voted earlier in the year to continue with devolution will now take a final vote on whether they want to go forward or not and following that round of votes we will know if Norfolk and Suffolk are to combine under one authority.

The full results can be found at: www.eastangliadevo.co.uk/uploads/Norfolk_Suffolk_Consultation.Feedback_Report_-_FINAL.compressed.pdf

You can find out the latest news about devolution in Norfolk and Suffolk by visiting www.eastangliadevo.co.uk

Our Parliamentary and District Boundary are changing

The size of our wards is being reviewed by The Local Boundary Commission for England. With the new housing in the district has come an increase in the number of people who can vote and the review is taking place to make sure that the number of residents represented by each elected member is the same, or at least within 10%.

We have sent our proposals to the Boundary Commission and now there will be a consultation, opening on 8 November, for you to have your say.

The final recommendations will be published on 14 March and any changes will then take effect for the 2019 district elections. Further details are available on www.lgbce.org.uk

At the same time, the Boundary Commission is also reviewing the parliamentary boundaries. This review is to ensure that every constituency in England is the same size. Much like the District Ward Boundary Review the Boundary Commission is asking for your views and the consultation closes on 5 December. All the information you will need to have your say can be found at www.bce2018.org.uk or in our offices in Long Stratton.

To take part in the Boundary Commission consultation visit www.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk
The Powerhouse of the East

As your local Council we are proud to provide services that make a real difference to the people in our District.

From securing multi-million pound investment to supporting people who fall on hard times; we are committed to making our vision “To Retain and improve the quality of life and prosperity of South Norfolk, for now and future generations, to make it one of the best places to live and work in the country” a reality.

Over the past two years our business-lite approach has resulted in £250 million being attracted into South Norfolk through grants and private investment. A quarter of a billion pounds into a rural district - underpinning the fact that the majority of economic growth happening in this country takes place outside of cities.

Total value of tourism in South Norfolk increased to £212 million in 2015 (up 3.4% on previous year)

New technology corridor created linking Cambridge and Norwich to increase regional GVA by £558 million

£2.4 million invested in faster broadband across the district

£2.8 million increase in visitor spend in South Norfolk over 2 years (up 6%)

£3 million of Growing Business Fund awards (New Anglia LEP) to local businesses leveraging £19 million private sector investment

2,400 planning permissions processed each year by South Norfolk Council

New enterprise zone secured at Norwich Research Park with £12.54 million investment to create 5,600 jobs
Our lifestyles and expectations have changed in the decade since we launched our website. The advent of smartphones and tablets has opened up opportunities to live our lives on the move and we now expect to be able to do everything with a swipe of a finger.

We have been working hard to understand the needs of our customers and deliver the kind of digital experience that you’ve told us you want and we’d like to say a big thank you to everyone who gave us feedback when we showcased the work we’ve been doing at South Norfolk on Show in the summer.

Our improved website puts you in charge and allows you to access our services at a place and time to suit you and the new search function will enable you to find the information you want faster. More services will be added over the coming months as we increase the range of transactions you can do online from your home or while you are out and about. This means that you could pay your Council Tax at 3.00am on Christmas Day - if you really wanted to!

However it’s important to say that, while we believe that our new website will improve your experience and will enable us to make better use of our resources, we don’t want our customers to feel ‘forced’ online. You will, of course, still be able to contact us in a number of other ways too.
We asked Hethersett silver surfers Ted & Jenny Hallett to pre-view our new website for us.

How do you normally find out about South Norfolk Council services or contact the Council?
We’ve used the website in the past to look up information but we didn’t find it terribly easy to find what we needed and have sometimes resorted to picking up the phone. We also found it very difficult to use on our tablet. We follow the Council on Facebook and find that a useful way to find out about events and we’ve also used Twitter to report problems with dog fouling.

What are your first impressions of our new website?
Wow! It is so attractive and the search box is brilliant. Instead of scrolling through long lists of topics trying to find what we’re looking for, we simply type in the box and away we go. The information is so much easier to find and easy to read. It’s actually really enjoyable to use and doesn’t feel like a chore any more.

What do you like the most about it?
We don’t have to guess what something might be called in order to be able to search for it. We can now get to the information we wanted within a few clicks. It also works brilliantly on our tablet and smartphone so we don’t have to log on to our PC just to find a quick bit of information. It is just really clear and simple.

What would you like to see in the future?
We’re really looking forward to being able to manage our own account so we can see all the services we use in one place. We like to be in control. It will also be really nice not to have to enter our details every time.

Will it change the way you access Council services or contact us?
Definitely. I think we’ll be much less likely to pick up the phone because checking the website will be so much easier. Being able to use the website on the go will be great too. It’s really going to help us feel part of the South Norfolk community and stay informed.

Ready, Camera, Action!
The video that will appear on our homepage was filmed entirely on location in South Norfolk and features real residents and businesses.

We wanted to show how diverse, exciting and surprising our district is as well as featuring just a few of the services that the Council delivers. Thank you to all who took part...
Having invested over £5 million in new homes and a new business park in the village of Poringland our first commercial building is now open for business.

Crafton House provides 800sqm of much needed modern business space, with office suites ranging from 13 to 200sqm. The building is suitable for businesses of all sizes from a single person office to an open plan space for 30 desks. We spoke to two of our new tenants Matthew Newbury from Newbury Homes and George Utting from Park View Private Clients.

What does your company do?

Newbury Homes is a privately owned property developer that builds modern homes in Norfolk. We have recently completed a scheme in Wymondham, are currently building in Wicklewood and have recently acquired sites in Harleston and Barnham Broom.

At Park View Private Clients Ltd, we offer genuinely independent financial advice. A large part of our business is providing investment advice, retirement options and inheritance tax planning.

Why did you decide on Crafton House?

We are relocating some of our London-based staff to East Anglia, and having researched the local market Crafton House was the stand out option. The location was very convenient and as house-builders we are very aware of the attraction of a new build.

We were looking to expand our business when the opportunity arose to rent offices in Crafton House. We welcomed the chance to move to this purpose built facility, allowing us to work locally and to provide an easily accessible service to our clients.

What do you like about the facilities on offer?

It’s a great location and very accessible. We have all the facilities of Poringland on the doorstep while still being able to get into the centre of Norwich for meetings with our lawyers, other consultants and advisors.

Crafton House provides a fresh, modern and spacious environment for us to meet the needs of our clients, staff and business. This flexible environment provides client meeting rooms, excellent disabled access, plenty of free parking and room for our business to grow.

Visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/business-space or call 01508533951 for more information about Crafton House or our similar commercial development in Long Stratton.
CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN SOUTH NORFOLK

Congratulations to South Norfolk business Goodies Food Hall - winners of the title “Best Independent Retailer of the Year” in the Great British Food Awards 2016 (Eastern Region).

The awards were judged by top food industry figures, including John Torode, Valentine Warner and Nathan Outlaw. Goodies Food Hall has a well-earned reputation for their locally produced quality meat, poultry and game, locally grown produce and their selection of over 60 traditional farmhouse cheddars, Stilton and continental cheeses. Goodies has a fantastic selection of festive fare to choose from including hams, game pies, salamis, cooked meats plus delicious homemade Christmas cakes and puddings.

Pop in and try the café or visit www.goodiesfoodhall.co.uk

Win a Christmas Hamper worth £100 from Goodies Food Hall

All you have to do is answer this question for your chance to win.

Which pub won South Norfolk Council’s Community Pub of the Year Award for 2016?

Email your answer to magazine@s-norfolk.gov.uk by 5 December. Our normal competition T&Cs apply (available on our website)

South Norfolk’s Winbirri Vineyards scoops ‘Wine of the Year’ trophy at English & Welsh Wine of the Year Competition 2016.

Winbirri Vineyards based in Surlingham was established in 2007 by experienced fruit farmer, Stephen Dyer. His son, Lee, took over in 2010 after he signed up for a number of intensive viticulture, oenology and wine skills courses at Plumpton College. Winbirri is a real family affair with six family members pruning, grape-picking, pressing and bottling.

Lee has recommended three wines for Christmas, a red, a white and of course a sparkling option. Bacchus, Brut and Insignia.

www.winbirri.com

Fredricks Fine Foods in Diss has entered the Farm Shop and Deli Awards

Fredricks Fine Foods provide a range of personalised catering services from their premises in Norfolk House Courtyard in Diss, including outside catering.

Offering a unique delicatessen experience, food is cooked to the customers requirements in a theatre style kitchen.

Fredricks can prepare a complete menu to meet your needs to host the perfect buffet or dinner party. They offer an over the counter service, helping you select individual items including terrines, pates, quiches, pies, vegetarian dishes, salads and desserts. Everything is homemade including their fantastic Christmas Cakes and puddings.

For a festive menu visit www.fredricksfinefoods.com
Christmas is a magical time and there will be plenty of special moments for the whole family to share in our market towns this festive season.

This year we have added a new category to our Independent Retailer Awards of “Best Christmas Experience” and we would like your help to choose the winner.

Let us know which of the shops in our market towns has been full of festive cheer and made you go WOW!

It’s simple, all you have to do is email us at magazine@s-norfolk.gov.uk and tell us why your chosen shop deserves to be our winner. The result will be revealed at our Independent Retailers Awards Ceremony in March 2017.

FREE PARKING ON SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER

To help you relax and enjoy Christmas shopping in South Norfolk we are offering free parking on the four Saturdays in the run up to the big day.

On 3, 10, 17 and 24 December charges will be waived in car parks run by South Norfolk Council, allowing you to do your market town shopping, and enjoy the festive entertainment.

The car parks offering free parking for the four Saturdays before Christmas are:

**Diss:** Park Road, Chapel Street Lower, Chapel Street Upper, Church Street, Weavers Court, Mount Street, Shelfanger Road East, Shelfanger Road West.

**Wymondham:** Back Lane, Town Green, Market Street, Cemetery Lane.

**Loddon:** Church Plain and the Staithe.
Wreningham Art Exhibition
Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 December 10.00am to 4.00pm each day
Wreningham Village Hall, Mill Lane, NR16 1AN
Pictures, crafts and cards will be for sale from a range of artists. The 16th annual Art Exhibition will provide an excellent source of affordable Christmas gifts! Artist demonstrations will take place during each day. www.wreningham.org.uk Entrance is £1.50 per head.

The Loddon and Chedgrave Victorian Evening
Friday 2 December from 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Loddon Town Centre
The light switch on will take place on Church Plain at 6.30pm. Enjoy a display of vintage steam engines; carol singing with Poringland Singers; activities for Children; Street entertainers; Punch and Judy; Father Christmas; “Open house” in Holy Trinity Church; and Funky Feet performing in the Hollies.

Harleston Christmas Market and Lights’ Switch-on
Saturday 3 December 9.30am to 5.30pm
Festive activities and entertainment for all the family. Crafts and hand-made gifts, delicious cakes and Christmas puddings, Christmas trees, garlands and wreaths, and lots of delicious street food. At St John’s there will be a Church Bazaar and Father Christmas and some of his elves will be in Santa’s Grotto at Harleston Information Plus in the afternoon. The lights are switched on shortly after 5.00pm by Harleston’s own local hero Carol Wiles MBE.

Wynterfest
Saturday 3 December 2.00pm
Wymondham
Festive fun all around Wymondham, including: Santa’s Grotto, live music, a festive fun fair, children’s activities, Christmas Tree Festival, stalls, street entertainment and carol singing.

The St. Nicholas Christmas Fayre
Sunday 11 December 10.00am to 3.00pm
Diss
A very special Christmas Experience right in the heart of Diss. Offering a festive shopping experience, come to the Christmas Fayre in St. Nicholas Street, Market Place and The Yards to get your Christmas started! Peruse the shops and stalls selling gifts, food, drinks, confectionery, chocolates, fashion, crafts and lots more! Ideal for that last minute Christmas gift.

Christmas at Whitlingham
Saturday 17 December 2.00pm to 4.30pm
Whitlingham Lane, Trowse, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 8TR
Christmas is coming to Whitlingham with a sack full of magical fun and things to do. Make your own natural decorations and join us for a winter woodland activity trail. Father Christmas will be arriving at twilight with an early present for everyone. Activities aimed at 4 to 10 year olds. Please ring 01603 756094 (Whitlingham Tourist Information Centre), or the Broads Authority on 01603 610734. Prices £5.00 per child.

The Mid-Norfolk Railway
The Mid-Norfolk Railway, Dereham Station, Station Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 1DF
01362 851723 www.mnr.org.uk
Join us aboard our special train as we journey to the coldest place on earth... You and your party will have a reserved seat in one of our standard coaches. Adults will be served with a sherry or non-alcoholic soft drink and a mince pie. Children will be served a soft drink and a chocolate treat. Every child will visit Santa in his special Grotto on board the train and receive a small Christmas gift from Santa. Keep a look out for Santa’s reindeers along the line!
Recycling the correct items helps reduce the energy involved in using new, raw resources to create new products…. it also saves you money!

The more items we recycle, the more money you save and that’s why we ask you to rinse your recycling and not to put it in a bag.

The contents of your bin are sent to our recycling centre to be sorted, but to enable the various sorting methods to be effective all the materials must be clean and dry and placed loosely in your recycling bin. Please do not put nappies, bags or textiles in your green bin.

If you put your recycling in a bag it cannot be sorted by the automated system and will be rejected, whatever the quality and if the items are covered in food waste not only will they be rejected, but all of the other items that they have contaminated will also have to go.

This waste is expensive as at the end of the sorting process we sell the clean materials and the money is used to help us keep your council tax low.

Last year we recycled 44% of our waste and our centre in Costessey processed:

- 410 tonnes of steel & aluminium cans = 35
- 164 tonnes of glass = 410
- 342 tonnes of mixed plastics = 155
- 7368 tonnes of paper/card & cartons = 39
- 346 tonnes of plastic bottles = 173

For more information about the items you can recycle in South Norfolk visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/recycle
COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

OF YOUR RECYCLING

You can find out the date of your bin collections by logging in to My South Norfolk on our homepage www.south-norfolk.gov.uk

Collection day changes for Christmas 2016

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Usual Collection Day</th>
<th>Revised Collection Day</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 27 December</td>
<td>Wednesday 28 December</td>
<td>1 day late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28 December</td>
<td>Thursday 29 December</td>
<td>1 day late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 29 December</td>
<td>Friday 30 December</td>
<td>1 day late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 30 December</td>
<td>Saturday 31 December</td>
<td>1 day late</td>
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A calendar will be delivered at the end of November with all of your specific collection days. This provides the dates for the next two years so please keep it safe.

As we don’t collect rubbish or recycling bins on Mondays anymore when a bank holiday falls on a Monday it will not effect your collection date. The only collection changes you may have will be on Good Friday and Christmas bank holidays.
The latest figures show more than a 10% increase in the number of South Norfolk residents who get on their bikes at least once a month.

Councillor Clayton Hudson, our cabinet member for Stronger Communities and Leisure told us, “This is fantastic news and a great achievement for our district. The health and well-being of our residents is a priority for the Council and we’re working hard to encourage cycling, a great form of exercise.

“We’ve hosted the men’s professional cycling Tour of Britain every year since 2011 and this year the Women’s Tour travelled through the district for the first time. These figures prove that our approach to keeping our residents active is working and really gives us something to build on moving forward.”

The Sport England survey published earlier this year measures the number of resident who participate in sport at least once a week for at least 30 minutes.

The results for our district show that 40% of our residents are reaching the target. That’s 7% above the county average and the highest figure in the county.

We also have the highest figure in Norfolk for residents who are 16 and over who exercise for at least 30 minutes, three times a week.

All the data can be accessed on the Sport England website on the Who Plays Sport local page. www.sportengland.org

We all know how important exercise is to our health and the need to keep active. We have been supporting sports groups across the district with match funding grants that have enabled clubs to make much needed improvements to buildings and equipment.

This year Councillor John Overton supported local gymnastics club Framtastics with a grant of over £3,000 to help them buy much needed equipment. The grant was used to buy a vaulting table, tumbling mat with trolley and a low beam.

Marianne said “we are so unbelievably grateful for the grant we received from the Council. In the summer the club won the Lord Mayor’s Procession and that has inspired us to apply to perform at Disneyland Paris next year. We have to audition and be selected, but if we get through it will be an opportunity of a lifetime for the girls - to perform on stage at Disney and also in the parade. Fingers crossed.”

We also helped Hingham Tennis, a brand new tennis facility that opened at the end of May. We put a total of £2,300 into the project and the club received further funding of £75,000 from Sport England.

Simon from Hingham Tennis told us “We now have two courts surfaced with state-of-the-art non slip porous macadam. The courts are floodlit to allow play throughout the year, and we have a fantastic ‘Tennis Hut’ club premises which is a social ‘hub’ for players and spectators. Our aim is to make this a welcoming, inclusive club that will appeal to tennis enthusiasts of all ages and abilities.”

More details about Hinghan tennis club can be found at clubspark.lta.org.uk/HinghamTennis.

We have also helped keep our residents active by:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Club Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Framtastics Gymnastics Club</td>
<td>£3,000</td>
<td>Grant to buy much needed equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hales &amp; Loddon Cricket Club</td>
<td>£1,250</td>
<td>Towards a mobile steel cricket cage and net, used for adult and junior training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wymondham Nature Group</td>
<td>£750</td>
<td>Towards equipment and tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwich Water Polo Club</td>
<td>£1,980</td>
<td>Replacement goals for the junior water polo club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooke Bowls Club</td>
<td>£1,250</td>
<td>Towards equipment and furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shotesham Bowls Club</td>
<td>£999</td>
<td>Towards the purchase of a rotary lawn mower and hedge trimmer to maintain the bowling green and car park</td>
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SOUTH NORFOLK LINK AUTUMN 2016 | 17
PROVIDING THE KEY TO AFFORDABLE HOMES

The number of affordable homes available for families and young people to rent in South Norfolk is now the highest since the 1980s.

Having your own home is an aspiration that many people share and we have built more affordable homes in the last five years than any other Local Authority in either Norfolk or Suffolk. That means our policy of ensuring that our residents have a choice of affordable housing options has resulted in hundreds of families getting the keys to their own front door.

Councillor Yvonne Bendle, cabinet member for Well-being and Early Help said. “Over the last thirty months South Norfolk Council has provided more than eight hundred and fifty affordable homes. This is housing that is meeting a genuine local need and is giving young people and their families a better start in life and a chance to stay near their friends and families. Our success supports our local communities and that in turn supports the local economy.”

Our achievement has been made possible, through a combination of controlled growth and forward planning. By working in partnership with the government’s Help to Buy Scheme more than sixteen hundred homes have been bought or rented by people who would otherwise have struggled to get onto the property ladder.

Councillor Bendle added “There has been criticism about the effects of right to buy on the affordable housing supply but we have shown that with the right approach we can provide our residents with housing options and help prevent homelessness. South Norfolk now has more affordable housing than ever before.”

A recent independent review of South Norfolk Council’s homelessness services showed that we are one of the best, if not the best, homelessness authorities in the country.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

We are working with both Broadland District Council and Norwich City Council to produce the Greater Norwich Local Plan. We know that it is likely we will need an additional 12,000 houses between now and 2036 and a key element of the Plan will be to ensure that the need for employment land is met, alongside the need for new homes. The plan allows us to make sure we are ready for the expected growth and that we are able to address the social, environmental and economic needs of our communities over the next twenty years.

Details of the sites for housing submitted for consideration for inclusion in the GNLP were published at the end of October, and can be viewed on www.greaternorwichlocalplan.org.uk
The Stay Well This Winter Fund has been set up to support voluntary groups and charities that work to support vulnerable people in their local community and those who face particular hardship over the winter months.

Grants of up to £1,000 are available for projects run by voluntary or community groups and charities that help residents who are facing very real challenges as the weather gets colder; including the elderly, people with chronic medical conditions and the homeless.

Church groups and Parish Councils can also apply for grants for projects that benefit their wider community. These can include activities that help to reduce isolation for older and disabled people, provide a hot meal or warm clothing, or help vulnerable people to access local services and information that may prevent a crisis situation arising.

Groups and activities that could be considered include:
- Lunch clubs for the elderly and disabled
- Day Centres
- Drop in services and outreach for the homeless and rough sleepers
- Befriending schemes
- Self-help groups for people with chronic conditions

Stay Well This Winter also aims to support groups that help families and children living in disadvantaged households.

Funding is available for projects that happening before the end of March 2017.

For more information about how you can apply please visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/earlyhelp
WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

BIG LITTER PICK 2016

WINNERS

More than 100 litter picks took place in the Big Litter Pick 2016 with hundreds of residents from across the district collecting over 2,000 bags of rubbish and recycling.

Councillor Kay Mason Billig, cabinet member for Environment and Recycling said: “The Big Litter pick just goes from strength to strength. I would like to thank everyone who gave up their time to make a real difference in their community. I would also like to say congratulations to the winners and I look forward to seeing how you all spend your money.”

There were four £200 prizes up for grabs in each of South Norfolk’s five neighbourhood areas and every group who took part were given a £20 voucher to be spent on their group, charity or local community.

The £4,000 prize fund was split between South Norfolk’s five Neighbourhoods to ensure that it was shared across the district and the names of all of the community groups and schools that registered to take part in a litter pick were entered into a draw. The winners were:

- **Northern Valley**
  - Bracon Ash & Hethel P.C
  - Mulbarton P.C
  - Mulbarton Junior School
  - Mulbarton Infant School

- **Eastern Valley**
  - Ditchingham P.C
  - Aldeby P.C
  - Loddon 1st Scouts
  - Kirstead P.C

- **Tas Valley**
  - Saxlingham Nethergate P.C
  - Tas Valley Cell Church (Newton Flotman)
  - Flordon Church Community Trust
  - Morningthorpe P.C

- **Waveney Valley**
  - Thorpe Abbotts PC
  - Pulham Market Pre-School
  - Alburgh PC
  - Gissing Community Group

- **Tiffey Valley**
  - Wreningham S&S club
  - Wymondham Scouts (Mike Heard nomination)
  - Wymondham Young Carers
  - 1st Wymondham Scouts

DON’T BIN IT, REPAIR IT

Following on from the great success of our Reuse and Recycle events we organised our first Community Repair Hub in Costessey. The aim was to teach people how to repair items that they would otherwise have just thrown in the bin.

Kay Mason Billig, South Norfolk cabinet member for Environment and Recycling said: “We live at a time when it’s often cheaper to buy a replacement item than have something fixed and that has resulted in tonnes of material ending up in landfill. The idea of the Repair Hub is to give residents the skills they need to do simple repairs and extend the useful life of things they already own.

“We have had fantastic support from our residents for our Reuse and Recycle events and I look forward to our Community Repair Hubs being just as successful.”

The Repair Hub took place at Costessey’s Brechland Hall and residents were asked to take along broken items and work alongside volunteers from Men’s Shed to learn how to fix them. Items included small electrical items, bikes, indoor and outdoor wooden furniture, textiles and clothing.

If you are interested in organising a litter pick in your community get in touch by emailing litterpick@s-norfolk.gov.uk

Find out where our next Repair Hub will be by visiting www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/communityrepairhub
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ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

ADS
We take our hat off to The Crown

This has proved to be a vintage year for our Community Pub of the Year winner, The Burston Crown.

Previously a Neighbourhood winner, the 16th century pub was named the 2016 Champion at our awards event which was held at last year’s winning pub The Crown, in Pulham Market.

Now in its eighth year this popular competition that was launched to support local pubs as community hubs, received votes from across the district and from the 47 nominated five outstanding pubs raised the bar once again, to win through to the final round.

Along with the prestigious title of South Norfolk Council’s Community Pub of the Year, the Burston Crown will receive the top prize of £500 to be put towards a community event.

Winners Bev and Steve Kembery said “One of the many special things about this award is that it was voted for by our customers. We are proud that the Crown boasts a proper pub community and we are looking forward to holding our event in the spring.”

Councillor Clayton Hudson said “As always the judges were set a very difficult task, to decide between five very good pubs. The Burston Crown is a lovely, family run community focussed pub that deserves the title of our Community Pub of the Year.”

Congratulations also go to our five neighbourhood winners:

The Green Dragon, Wymondham
The Fox and Hounds, Great Moulton
The Crown, Burston
The Water’s Edge, Bramerton and
The Bush, Costessey

All five Neighbourhood winners will be presented with a “South Norfolk Community Pub of the Year Award” tankard.

The judging panel was made up of Councillor Clayton Hudson, cabinet member for Stronger Communities and Leisure, Councillor Martin Wilby, Councillor Alison Thomas, Terry Stork, from the Pub is The Hub, and Anthony Carroll, the EDP’s community editor.

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