Easter Bin changes inside

£2 million investment coming soon
The Greater Norwich Local Plan

Please respond as the GNLP can only succeed if the views of the public, developers, services and infrastructure providers are understood.

The Regulation 18 consultation will run from 8 January to 15 March 2018.

Contact us

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

Email: council@s-norfolk.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/southnorfolk council
www.twitter.com/SNorfolkCouncil

Main Number: 0808 168 2000
Write to: South Norfolk Council, Cygnet Court, Long Stratton, Norwich, NR15 2XE

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
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.
In February I chaired a conference attended by delegates from 102 District Councils – more than half the total to celebrate the distinctive, influential role of district councils in creating better lives and stronger economies.

The conference focused on the way in which every Councillor is committed to solving problems one family, one street and one place at a time. While budgets are always under pressure, local solutions to local problems mean that your Council has the mandate and responsibility to make life better for everyone.

That means investing in local economic growth and earning the resources to allow us to solve problems, saving the wider State huge amounts of money. The extra council tax paid by the occupiers of the 1300 new homes completed last year has gone towards us being able to help the elderly get home more quickly from hospital. By adapting homes to make sure they are suitable, we have helped 100 people in just 17 weeks, saved 381 bed days and halved the average geriatric stay. It’s what a Council should be doing and that’s just one of the things that each of the 86 local services we’re responsible for does day-in and day-out.

Elsewhere in South Norfolk recycling is up and our new, more efficient, bin lorries are arriving next month as we keep our fleet up to scratch and reliable. We are continuing to offer everyone the opportunity lead active lifestyles with attendance at Wymondham Leisure Centre up by 20% following our recent investments and the £2 million upgrade at Long Stratton Leisure Centre starts this month.

Meanwhile, our ability to work with those who have fallen on hard times has avoided 319 cases of homelessness in the last year, while 300 new affordable homes were completed taking the total to 1,200, more than replacing every single home that has been lost to Right to Buy.

Looking ahead, working more closely with our neighbours at Broadland will enable us to promote growth and prosperity in the region and attract and retain the best staff to ensure your needs are addressed in the most professional way.

We work hard every day to solve your problems one family, one street and one place at a time, striving to make South Norfolk one of the best places to live in the country while increasing our share of your council tax by just £5 – one of the lowest rises in the country.
ROUND UP OF ACTION CLOSE TO YOU

SOUTH NORFOLK ON SHOW ON TOUR 2018

Meet the South Norfolk on Tour Team at events across the district. There will be plenty of fun activities, games and competitions, as well as a chance to chat to our team and find out how we can help you.

Costessey Fete, Costessey Centre
Monday 28 May

Diss Carnival, Diss Park
Sunday 10 June

Chet Carnival, Loddon
Saturday 16 June

Run the Square, Hethersett
Sunday 8 July

TIME TO SPARE?

If you have just an hour to spare a week you could make a huge difference to someone’s life. Voluntary Norfolk is keen to hear from you if you are 18 years old or over and enjoy meeting and spending time with people.

If you can help, please email chloe.edwards@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk. You can also register your interest via the website.

FUNDING FOR ROUNDABOUT

The Hempnall crossroads on the A140 is to be replaced by a roundabout. The Department for Transport is providing £3 million towards the project with the remainder of the cost set to come from developer funding. Work will start, subject to planning permission, in Autumn 2019 and the roundabout is expected to be ready Summer 2020.

LONG STRATTON BYPASS

We have received a planning application for the Long Stratton Bypass. You can see details of the application by visiting www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/planning.

EASTER BIN CHANGES

The Good Friday rubbish and recycling collection will be one day late and move to Saturday.

Brown bin collections for Good Friday and the week following Easter Monday will be one day late.

For more information about your bin days please visit My South Norfolk at www.south-norfolk.gov.uk

FOLLOW THE COUNCIL

Keep up to date with our latest news, offers, events and so much more by following us on Facebook @southnorfolkcouncil or follow us on Twitter @SNorfolkCouncil.
Following a consultation with residents at the start of the year, we have now set how much of your Council Tax for 2018/19 will be paid to us.

Our main source of income comes from central government funding, council tax, business rates and the income we get from chargeable services.

With funding from central government being reduced year on year, we have calculated that we will need to find £2.2 million in additional income or savings by 2022/23 to enable us to deliver a balanced budget.

Overall our budget, which covers 86 different services including Housing, Benefits, Homelessness Prevention, Early Help, Leisure, Planning and many more, is £30.6 million.

Although we are making further efficiencies, having looked at the numbers this year we have had to take the decision that to protect the services that make a real difference to our resident’s lives, our part of your Council Tax will increase by £5 to £145 a year for the average band D house. An increase of less than 10p per week.

But as you can see above, this still only equates to just over 8% of your overall Council Tax.

For more information visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/counciltax.

You can now save time and paper by signing up for e-billing for all of your services from South Norfolk Council. e-billing is a faster and more efficient way to receive your bills.

When you sign up you will no longer receive paper copies of your bills and statements, which will benefit the environment and save you having to keep paper copies. You can securely access and view your bills, at a time that suits you, on your mobile phone or using your computer in just a few clicks.

Signing up is easy. You just need to have your billing reference to hand, which will be shown on your latest invoice. You do not need to register separately for each service.

To find out which services you can pay using ebilling visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/ebilling
A virtual view of Wymondham’s past

We will bring Wymondham’s history to life this Summer through our state-of-the-art interactive heritage trail.

The walking trail, which is free to download from the app store, launches on 24 June, and has both child and adult versions that can be used in parallel, on smart devices, allowing families to enjoy the experience together while watching different stories as they explore the town.

People will be guided by the geo-mapping function of the app as historic events, local stories and objects are brought to life, providing a state-of-the-art digital experience.

By merging real and virtual worlds, visitors will be able to view Wymondham as it was in its medieval hey-day through 360 degree virtual reality and 3D imaging. Immerse yourself in the town’s history seeing the Abbey ruins rebuilt, the bustling medieval market and the stories of the famous Kett’s Rebellion and the Stanfield Hall murders.

A ‘Moongazer’ GoGoHare by the Market Cross is the starting point for the children’s trail. Henry the hare will become an animation and lead children on a journey of discovery, as they collect his dropped items on a virtual treasure hunt and place them in a virtual basket.

Two virtual reality headsets in the Heritage Museum will transport people back to Norwich in 1549 to experience the Kett’s Rebellion battle within the city walls.

The app will also provide historical information about more recent stories from the town, details of special offers from local businesses, local car park sites, an orientation map, places to eat and drink, local nearby attractions and links to other websites including our Chronicle Stories website.

The trail is being funded, following our successful application, by a £116,000 grant from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. To get the most from the Trail download the free app from any app stores on or after 24 June where you have good access to WiFi.

For more information visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk
Councillor Michael Edney, Deputy Leader of South Norfolk Council said; “A decent broadband service is essential in nearly every aspect of our modern lives – shopping, homework, video streaming, social networks and so much more. The current broadband speeds have left some residents and businesses feeling excluded and frustrated making it important that we did something to help – and we have.”

We have already invested £570,000 in the Better Broadband for Norfolk programme which has seen access to Superfast Broadband increase from 15% in 2013 to over 86% today. This figure is expected to rise to over 91% by 2020. However, this work will not reach everyone, so to help those residents and businesses improve their connection speed, we are working with InTouch Systems to deliver Broadband to areas currently not covered.

Councillor Edney said: “WiFi doesn’t stop at boundaries and once our network is up and running thousands of our residents, not just those in the ‘not spots’ will have access to a download speed of at least 10Mbps.”

“We are on our way to becoming the first rural district in the region to have 100% coverage for our residents and businesses.”

To find out more about broadband in your area and to check the coverage maps visit www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk and www.itswisp.co.uk/area-map

We welcomed the government announcement that everyone will have access to Broadband by 2020. But that’s still a long way off for people struggling with download speeds, so we’re working to improve Broadband coverage right now.

We are delighted to report that we have just delivered superfast broadband to our first ‘not-spot’ – in Needham. Other areas will quickly follow and we’ll tell people when their upgrade is available.

Drop-in sessions prove popular

We have recently hosted two popular Internet and Broadband drop-in sessions at Wymondham Library. Expert advice was provided by Netmatters, based in Wymondham, InTouch Systems, who we are working with to help us roll out broadband across the district, CyberScale and MTM Youth Services. The sessions included advice on finding out the speed of your broadband, common internet security issues and how to avoid them and how to use social media to find local groups and events.

Information about the sessions is available at - www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/broadband-internet-advice. We’ll let you know about other events in South Norfolk where you can get digital help and advice.
Since its launch in 2013 Norwich Research Park has grown at a rate of over one new company a month to create one of Europe’s largest concentrations of research into the emerging multi-billion-pound food, health and life science sector.

The Park is now home to over 80 companies and was successful in its application to be awarded Enterprise Zone status. An Enterprise Zone location offers a wide range of benefits to businesses including simplified planning processes and business rate discounts of up to £275,000 over five years.

Since the inception of the Enterprise Zone, 613 new jobs have been created. Bio-tech Leaf Systems, employing seven staff, two of which are apprentices, has moved onto the park and over £80 million of investment has been secured. Planned developments include a children’s nursery, the Quadram Building and a multi-storey car park, with space available for much more.

The new Enterprise Zone at the research park is one of 10 key innovation sites across Norfolk and Suffolk. Together they make up the Space to Innovate Enterprise Zone, spearheaded by us and the New Anglia Local Enterprise partnership. Overall the initiative will create 18,500 jobs over the next 25 years.

Council Leader John Fuller said: “We have invested £3 million to unlock the first phase of infrastructure work. This has now started and will comprise internal roads and highway improvements to Hethersett Lane.”

For more information about the Enterprise Zone visit www.norwichresearchpark.com

Following our £3 million investment, work on essential infrastructure has now started at the Enterprise Zone.

Students from three of our local high schools were put through their paces earlier this year at a mock assessment day.

Pupils from Wymondham College, Framingham Earl and Archbishop Sancroft High School spent a day at Jarrold Training in Norwich taking part in interviews, presentations and problem-solving tasks.
We recently helped Wymondham-based internet technology business Netmatters, with their application for a £25,000 grant from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Netmatters provides Web Development, Digital Marketing, IT, Telecoms, Cyber Security and Bespoke Software Services to businesses across Norfolk and Suffolk.

The company has enjoyed rapid growth since its launch in 2008, going from four employees when they started, to more than 40 now. Their purchase of another unit, in Wymondham, will allow the company to continue to expand and continue to recruit.

MD James Gulliver said:

“To secure our new premises, we needed the £25,000 grant as quickly as possible. The Council’s Economic Development Team helped speed up the process from the usual 4-6 weeks to a matter of days, which was a huge help.”

Netmatters is also planning for the future through their scholarship program. The company hires young people with little or no experience, but who have a passion for web technologies and a real hunger to succeed, and upskills them to become the next generation of digital experts.

This initiative has been a great success providing a win-win situation for both the company and the scholarship graduates.

To find out more visit www.netmatters.co.uk

They were observed throughout the day by volunteer assessors from local businesses, the New Anglia Enterprise Adviser Network who gave each student constructive feedback.

Council Chairman Barry Duffin said:

“This was an excellent opportunity for students to experience what’s expected of them when they start applying for jobs. It gave them the confidence and tools they needed to get a foot in the door and achieve their potential.”

Ian Johnson, who has a child at Archbishop Sancroft said:

“It’s brilliant to see the support that teenagers can get through their school and the support of local businesses. One of my sons was taken out of his social media and online comfort zone and thrown into giving presentations, mock interviews and group discussion scenarios. With kids from other local schools all competing to win, it made for a challenging, yet realistic, example of what they will face in the future. Great stuff!”
When estate agents Starkings and Watson first moved to our business centre in Poringland it was a start-up company with only two employees.

Now, just twelve months later it has six staff and is looking to take on two more. They are an EDP Top 50 company and Managing Director Chris Starkings tells us “the number one selling agent in NR14.”

Chris continued; “We started in a small office downstairs but as the company has grown, the flexibility of the office space at Crafton House has allowed us to move into a much bigger suite giving us the room to expand. Poringland is an ideal home for our business and as I live in South Norfolk it also means that I don’t have far to drive to work.”

The residential and letting agency is open seven days a week and is ideally situated to cover Norfolk and North Suffolk as it is situated near all the major link roads in the area.

Crafton House provides 800sqm of high specification office accommodation over two floors offering space to suit business start-ups and those looking to expand. The building is ideal for networking events with plenty of space for meetings and collaborative co-working, has free WiFi, a fully equipped video conferencing facility and plenty of free parking.

The facilities are open to both tenants and non-tenants alike with non-tenants being able to access them via membership of the Council’s business club package. Visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk.

For more information about Starkings and Watson visit www.starkingsandwatson.co.uk

Setting Businesses on the right course

Our business centre in Poringland, Crafton House, is hosting free training sessions, delivered by Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise services.

The courses available include:
First Steps to Start-up – Covering business viability, different types of structures and their individual benefits, market research and how to structure a business plan.
Marketing – How to develop a brand and logo, producing engaging material, introduction to Search Engine Optimisation, correct and appropriate use of social media and developing a marketing plan.
Taxation and Bookkeeping – Learning and understanding HMRC’s mandatory requirements, bookkeeping options available, how to maintain an asset register, recording VAT and day-to-day tips on record keeping.

Find out how your business can take advantage of these free courses by visiting www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/business

Join the Business Growth Club

Join our Business Growth Club, a group of small business owners looking to grow by sharing knowledge and ideas. Come along and meet the members at the free monthly events at Crafton House, Poringland – they are very relaxed and informal, with lots of helpful tips and ideas. There is no need to book, just turn up and see what it’s all about.

The Business Growth Club will meet from 8-10 am on: 10 April, 15 May, 12 June, 10 July and 14 August.

To find out more visit www.businessgrowthclub.net.
Setting
Businesses
on the right
course

Find out how we can help your business grow at our business breakfasts. Organised by the Lively Crew, our breakfasts are a great opportunity for you to meet local business people in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. These events are an excellent way to raise the profile of your business and help develop relationships with other local businesses and professionals without compromising ‘work time’.

Dates for your diary:
Wednesday 6 June
Wednesday 12 September
Wednesday 12 December

More information and venues will be available on our website at www.south-norfolk.gov.uk

Prestigious Offices To Let
140 – 6,288 sq ft (13 - 584 sq m)

Poringland and Long Stratton

Crafton House, Rosebery Business Park, Poringland
Maple House, Cygnet Court, Long Stratton

- Prestigious developments by Big Sky Developments Limited for South Norfolk Council
- High specification offices with parking
- Flexible leases available
- Available for immediate occupation (Poringland) from May (Long Stratton)

An appetite for business

Find out how we can help your business grow at our business breakfasts.

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These events are an excellent way to raise the profile of your business and help develop relationships with other local businesses and professionals without compromising ‘work time’.

Dates for your diary:
Wednesday 6 June
Wednesday 12 September
Wednesday 12 December

More information and venues will be available on our website at www.south-norfolk.gov.uk
A grand outcome for affordable homes

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

Figures released by the Government show that over the last three years we have delivered over 1,300 affordable houses, more than any other authority in either Norfolk or Suffolk and we are predicting to provide another 1,500 over the next three years.

This provision of affordable housing, through a combination of controlled growth and forward planning, in partnership with the government’s Help to Buy Scheme has resulted in more than thirteen hundred new homes being bought or rented by people who would otherwise have struggled to get themselves onto the property ladder.

Yvonne Bendle, Cabinet member for Well-being and Early Intervention said. “Our record on delivering affordable homes and preventing homelessness is second to none and something in which we take great pride. Every affordable home we’ve built is an opportunity for someone to have their own home and a chance for independence. We are keeping families close to each other, supporting our communities and providing local people with houses that they can afford.

“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 housing options and help prevent homelessness. South Norfolk now has more affordable housing than ever before.”

The money will help accelerate the delivery of homes by at least 18 months as it allows us to open the scheme to a wider range of small and medium sized developers.

Central Government is supporting Big Sky with a £5.5 million Housing Infrastructure Fund grant to unlock housing on our site in Cringleford.

We already have permission for 350 houses and the plan is to put the infrastructure in place to allow us to sell small packages of the land to small and medium sized developers, giving them the opportunity to be a part of a much larger site. There will also be opportunities for custom build projects.

Council Leader John Fuller said, “South Norfolk Council has a strong record on housing delivery and we have recently been..."
Built by Big Sky Developments, Maple Park is home to a bespoke business centre with 800sqm of much-needed office space, suitable for businesses of all sizes.

Maple Park also boasts a range of 50 good quality houses that enhances the local surroundings and meet the needs of the community, while at the same time, delivering a financial return to our council tax payers.

Ten of the fifty houses will be bought by our Big Sky Property Management company to deliver ongoing rental revenue for the Council and affordable rental housing for local people.

By building office space close to where people live we are enabling people to cut down on their need to commute to work.

Maple Park resident, Mr Gladding told us. “We bought one of the first houses to become available and we have been so impressed that we are now buying a bungalow for my mother.

We are also talking to Big Sky about renting some office space, which is no more than a two-minute walk from our home.”

Through Big Sky Developments, we are now looking at investing significantly in major scale sites, working with other housing developers. We are seeking to acquire large portfolios of housing to let and to make further investment in commercial spaces.

Big Sky Developments is a “pioneer” among local authorities and in 2016, was recognised as “Client of the Year” at the East of England Constructing Excellence Awards.

For more information about our Maple Park development and the business centre visit www.bigskydevelopments.co.uk or call 01508 533916.

cited by the government as being in the top three authorities nationally for new housing starts. This money will allow us to get stuck into delivering homes, homes that already have planning permission and that are close to where people work.”

The site has good road links and is close to the Norwich Research Park, University of East Anglia, the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and Norwich City Centre.
We are continuing to invest in the health and wellbeing of our residents with exciting improvements to Long Stratton Leisure Centre.

Work includes a new first floor extension and an inclusive fitness suite, new changing facilities, a café and soft play area, new equipment and improvements to the car park.

Cabinet member Yvonne Bendle said: “The Centre will be a state of the art facility that will serve the whole community for years to come. At a time when other authorities are closing their leisure centres this underlines our commitment to providing the sports and social hubs that our communities are asking for.”

The Centre will help residents of all ages not only become active but remain active in the future. It will also be a place where friends and family can spend quality time together.

Improvements to the centre will work alongside the Long Stratton Area Action Plan which sets out the area’s future development.

Long Stratton is planned to grow with more than 1,800 new houses being built by 2026 and this investment will mean that the leisure centre is ready for the increased demand that this growth will bring.

We have already invested £4 million in Wymondham Leisure Centre where there is also housing growth taking place. Since the Centre re-opened that investment has resulted in an 87% increase in membership.

For all the latest information, #LSLCrevamp, @longstrattonleisurecentre on Facebook or @LongstrattonLC on Twitter, or visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/lslcrevamp
New-look Centre will be fit for the future

We asked
You said
We did

Last year we asked you what you would like to see in your new leisure centre. You said...

I would really love a café!

It would be good to have more than one studio

Make the gyms and studios bigger and more modern

Would be lovely to have a soft play area where we could have little parties for the children and have snacks in the café. It would make the Leisure Centre a social place.

More changing rooms needed to help when school children are using the Leisure Centre.
Joining Diss Leisure Centre was the beginning of Jessica Meek’s incredible weight loss journey. Here’s her inspirational story...

Mum of four Jessica, piled on six stone whilst having her children, she jokes “It was one and a half stone for each child.”

When her youngest started school Jess weighed 17 stone. She confides: “I knew I had to do something about it, but rather than going on some fad diet, I decided to join a fitness centre.”

Jess joined Diss Leisure Centre in September 2016.

“The instructor Imogen was absolutely brilliant,” reveals Jess, “she showed me all the equipment and how to use it, instantly putting me at ease and making me laugh. She really helped give me the confidence I needed to get started. She also gave me some excellent diet tips that have really helped me manage what I eat.”

Jess began to visit the Centre five times a week and as well as using the cardio equipment in the gym she also took part in the aqua fit classes.

“The classes were fantastic as they supported my joints and as everything was underwater I didn’t feel embarrassed about how I looked,” reveals Jess.

She also began swimming in the Centre’s 25 meter pool, slowly building up the lengths she could do from 2 to 64. “I wasn’t a very good swimmer at all, but the life guards gave me encouragement and advice on my technique and that really helped.”

Since hitting her target weight in July, Jess has started joining in classes at Long Stratton Leisure Centre and regularly runs and cycles.

“For an extra £3 on my membership, I can join in all the classes at Long Stratton or Wymondham Leisure Centre too – which is brilliant as it means I never get bored and can juggle the activities around family life.” Said Jess

She added: “The staff at Diss Leisure Centre have been amazing. Everyone at the Centre is so friendly and supportive, it feels like a big social club. It makes a massive difference and helps give you the motivation to keep going.”

To find out how you can join one of our Leisure Centres, in Diss, Long Stratton and Wymondham visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/diss-leisure-centre.
Our Full Council unanimously agreed to support the motor neurone disease (MND) Charter. The MND Charter raises awareness of the needs of local people living with this terminal disease, their families and carers.

Motor neurone disease is a fatal, often rapidly progressing disease that can leave people locked in a failing body, unable to move, talk and eventually breathe. It kills around a third of people within a year of diagnosis, and more than half within two years. While some will live with the condition for a number of years there is no cure.

Unfortunately, this condition is still little understood and this contributes to many people with motor neurone disease waiting a long time for a diagnosis, and not always receiving the care and support they need. The MND Charter was launched to change this.

South Norfolk Cabinet member Yvonne Bendle said, “This is a very cruel disease and the Council has unanimously agreed to offer its support to both those suffering with Motor Neurone Disease and the people who care for them.”

Sue Heal, who enlisted the help of Cllr Yvonne Bendle and Cllr Lee Hornby to campaign to have the Council support the Charter said, “I look forward to working in partnership with South Norfolk Council to raise awareness of motor neurone disease and the needs of people living with it.”

Princess Anne recently visited the NNUH to launch a new network for MND care. She unveiled a plaque as Royal Patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

For more information please visit www.mndnorwichandwaveney.org.uk or www.mndassociation.org
**Health and Well-being**

**Giving women help with sanitary essentials**

We are working with the Help Hub and Norfolk County Council’s Libraries to support women on low incomes by providing free sanitary products.

Anyone struggling to pay for sanitary or hygiene products can come to any South Norfolk Library where they will be able to collect items, with no questions asked.

The ‘Tricky Period’ initiative is in response to the national issue of ‘period poverty’ which has been widely covered by the press. The media originally focussed on the case of a schoolgirl using a sock because her lone mother could not afford to buy sanitary items. There are also reports of girls missing school due to period poverty.

Councillor Yvonne Bendle said: “We know there are women in South Norfolk who are struggling to pay for sanitary products. The Waveney Foodbank has been contacted by 12 schools in the district requesting sanitary products this year alone.”

“And these products add up. For example, a single parent of two girls would need to find around £30 a month for sanitary products. That’s a lot of money for some families, who may already be using the food bank.”

The libraries are also collecting sanitary and hygiene products which they can then distribute. If you are an individual or business and can help, then please bring items to the libraries, or contact communities@s-norfolk.gov.uk.

**Help Hub**

**Pick ‘N’ Mix**

**Bitesize Learning**

Free information sessions for community groups.

Come along to any of our free information sessions and get some practical advice to help you make the most of the skills available within your community.

**Promoting your group or activity** - 29 March, Kings Head, Woodton, NR35 2LR

**Social media** - 26 April, Swan Inn, Loddon, NR14 6LX

**Running an event** - 31 May, Bird in Hand, Wrenningham, NR16 1BJ

**Volunteering: Exploring new ways** - 28 June, Kings Head, Hethersett, NR9 3DD

Spaces are limited to 20 people per session on a first come first served basis, so please reserve your space by emailing volunteering@s-norfolk.gov.uk.
Save the date
South Norfolk on Show, 1 July

We will be showcasing the very best of what the district has to offer at this year’s show. You can look forward to some fantastic entertainment, delicious local food, browsing the many craft stalls and much more. You’ll also be able to find out more about our services and how we can help you. A fabulous family fun day not to be missed!

If you’re a local business, South Norfolk on Show is a great opportunity to showcase your products to thousands of people. Visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/onshow to apply for a pitch.

Funding for Centenary events

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. If you’re planning a commemorative community event, you can apply for a grant of up to £250.

Events will be happening across the district to mark the centenary of the final year of the war, with Armistice Day in November marking one hundred years since the end of WW1.

South Norfolk Chairman Councillor Barry Duffin said: “It’s so important we don’t forget all of those who fought and served at home and abroad during those dark years of WW1. Over 800,000 brave soldiers sacrificed their lives fighting to protect our freedom and we must do our best to remind people of that.”

“For Many Norfolk families lost love ones, with over 15,500 causalities from the county. Through this fund we want to encourage and support local events which shed light on this incredible period of history which changed the world.”

Funding will be available for events being held between the 1 March and 30 November.

Grants will be available on a first come first served basis. Visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk to apply.

Art goes public

For 16 days each year, Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios celebrates the county’s artists and their achievements by offering them the opportunity to open their doors to the public to exhibit, sell and talk about their work.

This year, the event will take place from Saturday 26 May - Sunday 10 June. More than 30 artists from South Norfolk are taking part as well as three of our district’s Schools showcasing the exceptional artistic talent of our young people.

We part fund this annual event and to give people the chance to see new art, meet artists, and - with many of the works on display being for sale - to buy original artworks directly from their creators.

Studios are free to visit. For more visit: www.nnopenstudios.org.uk
Celebrating our community stars

Vote for your community hero and give them the recognition they deserve in our Community awards.

Our awards celebrate the valuable contribution volunteers make to the district, whether running a sports club, hosting events, fundraising, or helping around the community.

If you know someone who deserves a medal for their tireless enthusiasm and dedication, then here’s your chance to give them a huge pat on the back.

There are 8 categories you can nominate people for:
- Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- Community Fundraiser of the Year
- Business Community Champion of the Year
- Community Wellbeing Champion or Group of the Year
- Environmental Champion of the year
- Lifetime Community Hero of the year

Winners will receive grants of £250 to give to their chosen charitable organisation and all those shortlisted will be invited to a special presentation evening at Diss Corn Hall on Thursday 7 June hosted by BBC Radio Norfolk’s Nick Conrad.

Nominations close 29 April. To nominate visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/champions.

Coming to a screen near you

Creative Arts East events have become a vibrant and important part of arts activity across South Norfolk – and with over 70 promoting groups, there’s always something going on near you!

The events are a great opportunity for neighbours to meet and socialise. For many communities, local performances and cinema screenings have become a major part of the social calendar.

Take a look at what’s coming up over the next few weeks:

**Goodbye Christopher Robin,**
16 March, 19.30 – Alburgh Village Hall
19 March, 13.00 – Long Stratton Village Hall

**Victoria and Abdul,**
17 March, 19.30 – Marlingford Village Hall
23 March, 19.30 – Hempnall Village Hall

**One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest,**
16 March, 19.30 – The Costessey Centre

**The Limehouse Golem,**
18 March, 12.00 – Hethersett Village Hall

**Murder on the Orient Express,**
20 March, 19.30 – Newton Flotman Village Centre
22 March, 14.00 and 19.30 – Masonic Rooms, Harleston

**Dementia Film Festival**

We are also working with Creative Arts East and Village Screen organisers to hold a dementia film festival.

The festival aims to ensure that through simple adaptations to signage, layout and better audience understanding, a trip to a Village Screen film showing, can be a rare chance for people living with dementia to participate in a ‘normal’ community activity.

The festival will launch in Dementia Awareness week May 21- 27 and is being sponsored by the East of England Coop.

For more information visit www.creativeartseast.co.uk, www.facebook.com/CreativeArtsEast, Twitter: @CreativArtsEast.
Simple adaptations to the home can make a huge difference to the health and wellbeing of our older and most vulnerable residents.

Our Handyperson scheme can help with hand rails, key safes, smoke alarms, works to prevent slips and falls and small home improvements.

For more information www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/handyperson-service

Personal lifeline alarm
for the elderly or vulnerable

A Contact Care lifeline provides you with help and reassurance at the touch of a button.

- Just £3.40 a week and installation fee of £30
- Your alarm fitted within 3 working days of contacting us (requires suitable plug sockets and 2 local contacts)

Get in touch with any questions, call us on 0800 917 4680
or contactcare@saffronhousing.co.uk

For more information www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/handyperson-service

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Three stunning local schemes were awarded top prizes in South Norfolk Council’s Design Awards.

The winners were announced by Council Chairman Barry Duffin at an award ceremony held in Wymondham Abbey, a winner last year for the Wymondham Abbey Experience.

Entries were invited from building owners, clients, architects, landscape architects, designers, contractors, manufacturers, parish councils, amenity societies and members of the public.

The winners were:

**Design for Living:**
*The Garden Room, Sea Mere, Hingham*

**Design for Working and Services:**
*Gissing Community Building*

**Heritage Conservation:**
*Diss Corn Hall*

Two schemes were awarded commendations. The Apples in Wymondham was commended in the Design for Living category and Diss Corn Hall was commended in the Design for Working and Services category.

Design and Heritage Champion Councillor Barry Stone said: “For the past 16 years, these awards have highlighted and championed the exceptional design qualities that enhance our towns and villages and helps retain the district’s special character.

“I am always delighted by the high quality of entries that we receive and there are some wonderful buildings in South Norfolk. It’s fantastic that these awards give us the opportunity to celebrate the local expertise, hard work and vision involved in creating them.

“South Norfolk is a beautiful place to live and through our planning policies, place-making guide and this competition we aim to keep it that way for now and future generations.”

For more information, visit [www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/designawards](http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/designawards)
Last year a record number of litter picks took place with over 900 residents collecting nearly 2,000 bags of rubbish and recycling.

Councillor Kay Mason Billig, cabinet member for the Environment and Recycling said:

“It’s great to see communities come together to keep South Norfolk looking tidy. So many children get involved and learn at an early age how important it is to dispose of rubbish responsibly. We want to continue working with our communities and encourage others to care about and take a pride in where they live.”

We’ll provide posters and leaflets to help publicise community litter picks and provide advice and equipment, and when the event is finished we take the rubbish away. The Big Litter Pick 2018 runs until the end of May and every school and community group that takes part has the chance to win £200 to spend on their community. There are twenty £200 prizes up for grabs across South Norfolk but every group that takes part will be given a £20 voucher to spend on their group, charity or local community. If you’re interested in organising a litter pick, get in touch by emailing litterpick@s-norfolk.gov.uk or by calling 0808 168 3333.

We’re also supporting The Great British Spring Clean, which is a national campaign to bring people together to clear up the litter that blights our towns, villages and countryside.

On the weekend of 2 - 4 March 2018, we will be encouraging people to get outdoors, get active and help clear up the rubbish that lies around them. Join the growing army of #LitterHeroes who have had enough of other people’s litter and are willing to do something about it.

To book a litter pick or for more information about recycling stars visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk
Get a FREE Ferry pass when you order 2 main meals at The Waveney Inn*

This coupon entitles the holder to a free pass on the Ternpike Ferry for up to four people when they order two main meals.

*For South Norfolk residents. Offer ends 25th May