

Stoke Holy Cross District Councillor Report 16th 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.

Leadership of South Norfolk Council

At the Council AGM on 20th May, Cllr. Daniel Elmer (Conservative) is expected to be elected as Leader of the Council. This follows the resignation of Lord Fuller as leader of the Conservative Group of Councillors, following his election to the House of Lords.

Nutrient Neutrality Update

Norfolk Environmental Credits have issued credits sufficient to allow c600 new homes to be started; the majority of deals (but not the majority of homes) have been for one off or smaller developments.

An agreement is being reached with a commercial company (Norfolk Rivers Consortium) to allow homeowners to convert septic tanks into private treatment plants supposedly without charge. Roll-out is expected to be localised due to capacity constraints (the installer can convert a tank a day at present).

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](#)

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.](#)

National Grid Substation Extension

National Grid has submitted its application for planning permission for the proposed extension to the Norwich Main Substation at Dunston. The application confirms that all access to the site would be via the A140. Consultation closes on 15th June.

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](#). 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."

The formal consultation for this project closes on Tuesday 18th June. Full information can be found on the National Grid's consultation website.

Local consultation events have closed but there is a series of on-line webinars at 6pm in the evening. Registration links follow: the [webinar on 29 May](#) covers the proposed route of the pylons in North Suffolk and Norfolk; while the [webinar on 12 June](#) 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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