

COUNTY COUNCILLOR PARISH UPDATE

OCTOBER 2026

Cllr Lee Jarvis

Welcome

Welcome to my October Parish Update. As we move into autumn there continues to be significant activity across Norfolk affecting our communities, parish councils and residents. This update brings together local and county-wide developments on highways, community safety, policing, health, adult social care, recycling, the environment and funding opportunities.

My focus remains on ensuring the voices of local residents and parish councils are heard and represented at County Hall. As always, I welcome contact from residents, community groups and parish councils on any issue affecting the area.

Councillor Update

Throughout September I continued working with residents, parish councils and council officers on highways matters, drainage concerns, flooding issues, public rights of way and road safety. These remain among the most common issues raised locally.

I have also continued supporting community groups and helping parish councils identify opportunities for future investment and funding. A significant amount of work continues behind the scenes to progress long-standing issues and ensure concerns raised by local communities receive proper consideration. I'm also proud to see that some long standing items impacting parishes are now moving at pace. I would also like to add on a personal basis my sincere thank you for your patience over the Summer whilst I've been out of the Country with my day job.

Standing Up for Norfolk

Norfolk County Council has adopted its new Standing Up for Norfolk strategy which will guide priorities over the coming years. The strategy focuses on putting residents first, growing the economy, improving transport, strengthening communities and delivering value for money.

Following a review of the council's first 100 days, greater emphasis is being placed on visible improvements, frontline services, accountability and ensuring public money is directed towards the priorities residents identify as most important.

Highways & Transport

Highways, road safety and drainage remain among the most common concerns raised with me by residents and parish councils. Throughout September I have continued to work with

officers on potholes, road surface deterioration, speeding concerns, drainage problems and flooding hotspots.

The County Council has redirected £924,000 into highways maintenance and road improvements to focus investment on the issues residents consistently tell us matter most. New pothole repair technology is also being trialled with the aim of delivering faster and more durable repairs.

Progress also continues on major infrastructure schemes including the Norwich Western Link and West Winch Housing Access Road. Parish councils are encouraged to consider projects for the 2027/28 Parish Partnership Scheme which remains one of the best opportunities for local transport and road safety improvements.

Community Safety & Policing

Police and Crime Commissioner Colin Sutton has launched consultation on the Norfolk Police and Crime Plan 2026-2028. The consultation provides an opportunity for residents, businesses, community groups and parish councils to help shape policing priorities.

Proposed priorities include rebuilding trust through neighbourhood policing, preventing violence and abuse, and supporting safer rural communities. Rural crime remains a significant concern for many communities and includes machinery theft, fuel theft and crimes affecting farms and rural businesses.

Consultation link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MDBWPY/>

Trading Standards Success

Norfolk Trading Standards continues its successful work tackling illegal tobacco and vape sales. Recent enforcement activity has led to the closure of a number of premises selling illicit products.

These operations help protect consumers, support legitimate businesses and disrupt organised criminal activity. Residents are encouraged to report concerns through the appropriate reporting channels.

Fire & Rescue Service

August became the busiest month in the history of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, with 1,295 incidents attended across the county. The exceptionally hot and dry summer resulted in a significant increase in wildfires and outdoor incidents.

Additional investment has been directed into frontline services to strengthen resilience and support emergency response capability. As we move into autumn and winter, preparedness for storms, flooding and severe weather becomes increasingly important.

Health & Wellbeing

New self-service health stations have been introduced across Norfolk, including one at King's Lynn Library. These free facilities allow residents to check blood pressure, heart rate, BMI and other health indicators in just a few minutes.

Residents receive personalised information and signposting to appropriate support services where necessary, helping to encourage preventative healthcare and healthier lifestyles.

The Big Conversation on Care

The Casey Commission has launched the Big Conversation on Care, a national consultation seeking views on the future of adult social care.

The initiative aligns closely with Norfolk's approach to supporting people to live independently for longer and receive more joined-up services closer to home.

Further information: <https://caseycommission.co.uk/bigconversation>

Recycling & Environment

Norfolk County Council's Recycling Centre Survey remains open and residents are encouraged to take part. Previous feedback has directly influenced service improvements including vape recycling, coffee pod recycling and improved arrangements for Blue Badge holders.

A draft Environmental Delivery Plan is also under consultation and could support both housing growth and environmental improvements across Norfolk, including habitat creation, river restoration and water quality improvements.

Local Government Reorganisation

There has been a significant update regarding Local Government Reorganisation. Previous proposals for three unitary authorities in Norfolk have been withdrawn.

Attention now turns towards devolution opportunities and securing additional powers and investment for Norfolk while continuing to protect local services and democratic representation.

Funding & Grants Spotlight

One of the most common requests I receive from parish councils and community organisations concerns funding opportunities.

Current opportunities include the Parish Partnership Scheme, Common Ground Awards, Norfolk Community Foundation grants, Family Hubs funding, Community Energy Funding and support available through the Norfolk Crisis and Resilience Service.

Useful links:

Parish Partnership Scheme – <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/parishpartnerships>

Norfolk Community Foundation – <https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding/>

Family Hubs Community Fund – <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41062/Family-hubs-Community-Fund>

Hardship Support – <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/HardshipSupport>

Keeping In Touch

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me during the past month. Your local knowledge and feedback are invaluable in helping me represent our communities effectively.

If there is anything I can assist with, please contact me at lee.jarvis@norfolk.gov.uk.