

Your community update

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

Clerk: Mrs. C. Crane

September 2024



Stay up to date!

Ensure you're fully informed by subscribing to the Town Council website for emailed updates at www.harleston-tc.gov.uk and stay connected with quick updates on the Redenhall with Harleston Town Council Facebook page.



Welcome to our September Community Update!

We hope you all had a good summer break and are looking forward to September and all that Autumn brings. We continued to be busy at the Town Council over the summer with a range of activities and you can find out more in this update.

The Harleston and Waveney Festival

It was wonderful seeing so many people enjoying the good weather and the bank holiday Monday at the Harleston and Waveney Festival. Congratulations and thanks to Harleston's Future for organising such a fantastic event on the Recreation Ground.

Upcoming Events

The next event on the Recreation Ground is our September Car Boot Sale on 22nd September. In September we are also holding our Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Market Place on Friday 27th September. Come and join us for a cup of coffee or tea and a slice of cake. You can find out more about all our events on our notice boards, Visit Harleston Facebook or [website](http://www.harleston-tc.gov.uk).

Larry Gray's Fair will be joining us again this year on the Recreation Ground from 26th to 28th September. Come along to join in with the fun!

The Town Council are working with the Royal British Legion on the Remembrance Day Parade which will be held on Sunday 10th November this year. We invite everyone to join us from 10.00am to watch the parade and the wreath laying ceremony to remember those who lost their lives on active service in all conflicts.

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council are proud to hold a variety of events across the year with our local community groups. To ensure these events run successfully and as smoothly as possible for all residents and businesses we have a wide range of event planning processes and procedures and you can find out more here: <https://harleston-tc.gov.uk/our-commitment-to-running-successful-events/>.



Visit
Harleston

Town Council Updates

New Gold Sponsors for our flower planters!

We are proud of our flower planters in town, and we can't thank our newest gold sponsors Rosedale Funeral Home and Harleston Information Plus Ltd enough for their support to ensure our planters continue to thrive and bring colour and fragrance to our town! These vivid flower displays play a pivotal role in welcoming everyone to Harleston. Thank you both for your support!



Harleston Information Plus is your community hub and recent winner of the South Norfolk Community Organisation of the Year 2024. With the help of over 45 volunteers, it offers a wide range of information from the Information Centre in Exchange Street, as well as a Befriending Service, Jobs Club,

On-line form-filling support, 1st Aid training, Citizens Advice appointments, and issues vouchers on behalf of the Waveney Foodbank. You can find out more about Harleston Information Plus on their website <http://www.harleston-norfolk.org.uk/>



Rosedale
FUNERAL HOME

Rosedale is an award-winning, independent and family-run funeral home with branches in Norfolk and Suffolk. They are a founding member of the Association of Green Funeral Directors, and the only funeral director in South Norfolk and North Suffolk which is recommended by both the Good Funeral Guide

and the Natural Death Centre. The Good Funeral Guide note: 'It is our judgement that here you will be: Listened to with empathy, offered the full range of choice, given all the time you need, charged fairly, and empowered to arrange a funeral that reflects your wishes and values and those of the person who has died.' You can find out more about Rosedale Funeral Home on their website www.rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk.

If you are interested in becoming a gold sponsor find out more here: <https://harleston-tc.gov.uk/our-flower-planters-need-you/> and contact enquiries@harleston-tc.gov.uk. Thank you for your consideration.

Flower Planter Volunteers needed!

Our fantastic volunteer planter group are also looking for new volunteers to help maintain the town planters as part of a team, on a rota. This includes watering, dead-heading and general maintenance - enthusiasm is very welcome and experience isn't essential, please contact enquiries@harleston-tc.gov.uk if you are interested!



Clock Tower update

You will have noticed the Clock Tower has been involved in an incident. We will be working on fixing this and will keep you all up to date with our progress.

Q&A with Redenhall with Harleston Town Council Chair Cllr Mba

At the end of August we published a video message from our Chair Cllr Mba which also included a Q&A section. You can find the video on [our website](#) but we have also written up a slightly edited version below if you would like to read the interview.



Hi! I'm Mo and the Chair of the Council. Today, I want to discuss attracting new councillors, becoming a councillor, and our achievements over the past 18 months. As a new council, we've initiated several activities, such as town events that have been well-supported and enjoyed. We've also started monthly Town Councillor Surgeries (more information on page 8) where residents can speak with us, and we've improved our website to provide more information. Overall, we hope we're doing a good job for Harleston and its residents.

With that in mind, there are spaces on the council for more councillors, and this is what I really want to talk about. We would love to have more councillors join us. We are a small team, none of us knew each other before, but we've gelled well, and it's been an enjoyable and rewarding experience. If you care about the town as much as we do and think you could help in making decisions, come and join us!

Q&A

Why did you join the Council?

I joined the Council because Harleston is a great place to live. I've lived in Norfolk for over 30 years, having previously lived in London, so I know what it's like not to live in a nice, pleasant town. Harleston is a lovely town with wonderful people. Many people were complaining about the town. I thought, instead, why not join the Council and see if I can help? Since joining, I've enjoyed it 90% of the time, and my focus is to keep Harleston as nice as it is.

You've been Chair for nearly two years. Over that time, what do you think has changed?

I hope we're now seen in a better light. When I first joined the Council, it didn't have the best reputation in town. My main focus was to change that and show that we're here to help the town and its residents. I think we're starting to achieve that, and people are beginning to buy in. They know they can contact us, and they know I will always try to do my best for them. They also realize that some things are out of our control. However, I feel we're more positive now, and the town is buying into what we're trying to achieve. Over the past two years, we've worked on many initiatives, like trying to get a community centre, to make the town better. I think people are starting to see the positive changes we're making.

Why do we need more councillors?

We have space for two councillors. During my time as Chair, some councillors have left for various reasons, sometimes because it wasn't what they expected, and that's fine. However, we welcome new councillors because they bring fresh ideas. If they join the council, it's brilliant because they can help make decisions. There are various committees they can join to support our work, and it's a rewarding experience. While there are some challenges, as with any role, we encourage people with new ideas to join us!

A lot of people work full-time and might be worried about the time commitment.

I understand that concern, and we do have councillors who work full-time. Being on the Council is a commitment, no doubt about it. I attend as many meetings as I can because I'm the Chairman and feel it's my duty. However, many councillors are only on one or two committees. If that's the case, you only need to attend those particular committee meetings, which might be once a month or once every two months. We have various committees, including Planning, Finance, Amenities, and Leisure, so there are options to suit everyone's skills and interests. Overall, you can probably manage with a minimum of three hours a month, but if you want to do more and get more involved, you have that opportunity. It might be a juggling act, but if you're committed, it can be done.

How do I find out more about being a councillor?

There are many ways to find out more. You can look on our website for information, come into the office for a chat, or contact me directly via email. I'm more than happy to help. We also have regular committee meetings that anyone can attend to see how they work. If you decide to become a councillor, you'll receive a pack with everything you need to know, and there are training courses available to help you learn how to be a councillor—it is rewarding.

Any final thoughts, Mo?

As I mentioned earlier, we would really like some new councillors to come forward. I know it can be difficult for some people, and it might not be for everyone. But I have found it to be a good experience, and I think my fellow councillors enjoy it as well. It gives you a chance to have a say in the town. I'm hoping to talk to various groups in the town because we try to work together, and it would be good to inform people about what the council does. I'm more than happy to speak to anyone who is interested—please contact me. So, at the end of the day, think about joining us.

paul.mba@harleston-tc.gov.uk

Upcoming events!

Dates for your calendar!

22nd September - Car Boot Sale

27th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning

31st October - Halloween

Explore *Visit Harleston* for exciting upcoming events and activities - don't miss out!

Visit our website at www.visitharleston.org.uk for the full 2024 event calendar.

Town Council updates continued...

Straight Lane footpath update

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council have received several enquiries about the Straight Lane footpath – thank you for contacting us about this and we understand its importance for our town. We have raised our concerns and those of our residents with Norfolk County Council and have asked for an updated. Currently we do not have any further information but will endeavour to find out more and keep you up to date via our usual channels. You can find out more about the [Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders \(TRO\) placed on the footpath on our website.](#)

Upcoming Street Surgery with Norfolk Constabulary

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council would like to let residents know that on 12th October 2024 between 11.00 and 12.30 the Norfolk Constabulary will be holding their next street surgery in Harleston at the Market Place. Do go along to meet our local policing team who will be there to discuss any concerns you may have or to just to have a general chat.

Notice of conclusion of audit – Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

The Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer of Redenhall with Harleston Town Council would like to announce under Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Section 16 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234) that the audit of accounts for Redenhall with Harleston Town Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 has been completed and the accounts have been published. You can find out more on this [notice on our website](#) or town notice boards.



Town Council updates continued...

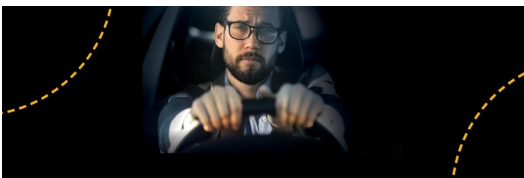
Simonds 581 bus update reminder

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council have been updated by Simonds in relation to the 581 bus service operated by Simonds from 2nd September. The service is going to be renumbered 81 and the frequency will be increased to hourly between Diss and Harleston. The number of journeys to and from Beccles will be reduced from 4 to 3 but still cover the same time frame and offer a variety of visiting options. The service is being re-routed in Harleston to better serve housing developments, and also now serving Diss rail station on outbound journeys from Diss. There are a number of opportunities to connect to other onward bus services throughout the route.

Town Council meetings

Everyone is welcome to come and join the meetings we hold and we encourage members of the public to come and join us whether its to listen and reflect or to ask a question. You don't need to ask a question to join a meeting you are a more than welcome to just watch and listen to what happens and how decisions impacting you and our town are made. Our next meetings are all listed on our website here <https://harleston-tc.gov.uk/calendar/> and our next Town Council meeting will be on Wednesday 25th September with a 7.00pm start in the Social Room at the Memorial Leisure Centre.

Updates from our County Councillor Martin Wilby



Stay Focused Campaign

Recent road safety figures show that 42% of all driver related traffic incidents in Norfolk are caused by some form of driver distraction and a loss of concentration at the wheel. Businesses and drivers can find free online training and resources to improve

focus while driving. The Stay Focused resources are available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/stayfocused and show you how you can train your brain to keep your mind alert while driving. It includes a quiz developed by the Open University to test how focused you are when you drive.

Bus passenger figures continue to rise across Norfolk.

Latest figures from bus operators across Norfolk show that the number of passengers has increased by 12% for the first quarter of this financial year. There were more than 6.9 million journeys taken by bus during April, May and June 2024 compared to 6.1 million for the same period in 2023. This follows the figures released in April which confirmed an annual rise of 16% for April 2023 to March 2024. It is now two years since NCC received £49.55 m of funding from the DfT to improve bus services across the county and increase number of journeys made by bus.



Reminders!

Would you like to become one of our councillors?

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council needs you to help make Harleston an even better place to live. Do you want to...

- ✓ Help us support nature recovery
- ✓ Develop new skills
- ✓ Preserve the historic and natural beauty of the local area
- ✓ Help us maintain our recreation ground and amenities
- ✓ Support our town events, leisure centre and town initiatives

Be the change!

This is your town, so why not come along and have your say in its future. If you want to talk more about what it involves or how you can balance it with your other commitments speak to one of the councillors or contact Clare Crane the Town Clerk on enquiries@harleston-tc.gov.uk to find out more.

Police—Bullock Fair

A reminder from the police that entry from Bullock Fair Close into the carpark is prohibited and enforceable. Violators may face a fine of £100 and receive 3 points on their license.

Dogs on leads on the Recreation Ground

Dogs must be kept on leads at all times on the Recreation Ground. We have fantastic dog run facilities on site so please use these if your dog needs a to have a run off the lead.

Road closure information for Visit Harleston events 2024

As you know we have some great events planned for 2024 and as part of this planning we want to keep highlighting the road closures to support the successful and safe running of our events. We encourage you look at these road closures and you can find the details on the Town Council website www.harleston-tc.gov.uk/our-commitment-to-running-successful-events/.



Just a
friendly
reminder...

Paddock Road car park entrance

Please enter the town car park using the Paddock Road entrance and exit the car park using Bullock Fair Close. Do not use the entrance as an exit, as this is dangerous.

Radio Interview!

The Chair of Harleston Town Council joins Park Radio monthly providing updates and insights about our town. You can listen to all the interviews via our [website](#).



Town Councillor 'Drop-In' Surgery:

Don't forget our Town Councillor drop-in surgeries, held from 10 am to 12 noon on the 3rd Saturday of each month at Harleston Information Plus. Your questions and concerns, along with our responses, are featured on the Town Councillor 'Drop-In' Surgery page on our website. It's a great way to stay informed and you find out about the Q&A's here: [Q & A from the May Town Councillor Surgery – Harleston Town Council \(harleston-tc.gov.uk\)](#).

RECREATION GROUND,
HARLESTON

*Visit
Harleston*

Car Boot SALE

Sunday 22nd September

10AM - 1PM

SELLERS TO ARRIVE BETWEEN 9AM - 10AM

THEN EXIT BETWEEN 1PM - 2PM.

ENTRANCE VIA WILDERNESS LANE ONLY



Scan for full details

£5 per car (cash only)

Head to Visit Harleston on Social Media and Google