



Your community update

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

Clerk: Mrs. C. Crane

December 2024



Welcome to our December Community Update!

We have had a busy month and we wanted to provide you with an update of all our activities and as a Town Council highlight how proud we are to work with our local groups and organisations. You can find our more about Remembrance Day and our Christmas activities including our Town Council Christmas opening hours in this edition.



Redenhall with Harleston Town Council are pleased to announce that the report from Chaplin Farrant in relation to the re-development of the Memorial Leisure Centre is now available. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback to Chaplin Farrant.

You can find the report on our website [Community Building Harleston - Public Exhibition Report](#)

Please note that, for data protection reasons, individual comments found in Appendix B have not been included in the public version of the report. If

you wish to see your specific comments and feedback included in the full report, you are welcome to review it at the Town Council office. Do contact us to book an appointment at enquiries@harleston-tc.gov.uk or on 01379 854519.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with our community projects.

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](#).



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.



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 \(harleston-tc.gov.uk\)](#).

Town Council updates

Harleston Remembers

We wanted to share how grateful we are to everyone in Harleston who came together to remember those who have served and those who continue to serve.

A special thank you to the Harleston Round Table for their diligent efforts in tidying the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance, and to Flag Force for the stunning array of flags. Our appreciation also goes to D.A. Browne & Son for their beautiful wreath display and to the local shops for their thoughtful and impactful window tributes. Let's not forget the mystery artist who added a wonderful touch with the incredible post-box topper!

We are also immensely proud to collaborate with the Royal British Legion Harleston & District Branch for the Remembrance Parade and Armistice Day.

Together, we keep their memory alive. Thank you, Harleston.



Town Council updates continued...

Christmas Cheer in Harleston!

Thank you to our Christmas helpers!

Firstly we want to say a big thank you to all our Christmas light and decorating volunteers who generously volunteered their time and effort to put up our beautiful Christmas decorations in town including Gawdy Hall, Flag Force and the Harleston Round Table. Your dedication and hard work transformed our town into a festive wonderland, ready for the big switch-on which was held on 30th November!



Harleston's very own Winter Wonderland

As a Town Council we enjoy working with our local groups and organisations on particular projects, events and activities and on 30th November, Harleston's Future hosted the Christmas Market, and the Town Council led the Christmas Tree Lights Switch on. A lot of activity goes on behind the scenes to ensure these events are successful from testing every single Christmas light which is then carefully put up in town, to organising the Christmas tree delivery. There is a huge effort made by everyone involved and we can't thank all our volunteers enough for their support. In addition, we would like to extend our thanks to J D Young for their continued support of the Christmas tree. We do hope everyone enjoyed both events and are enjoying the festive lights and tree.



Mark Your Calendars: Miniature Donkeys and Chocolate Hunt on 21st December!

We are thrilled to announce that our adorable mini donkeys are returning this year, and they're cuter than ever! Mark your calendars for 10am until 1pm on 21st December and join us in the town centre for a festive day filled with fun and delight.

Event Highlights:

Meet the Mini Donkeys: Come and say hello to our charming little friends. They're sure to bring smiles to faces of all ages!

Christmas Chocolate Hunt: Embark on a sweet adventure around the town centre. Follow the clues to find hidden chocolates and enjoy a festive treat!

Don't miss out on this magical event!

Grant applications

During our recent Finance Committee meeting we discussed the grant applications. The applications are received by 31st October and then reviewed by the Committee. This is always such a fantastic part of the Town Council's work – firstly to hear about the incredible work which is going on in Harleston for Harleston residents, the volunteers who give their time and expertise and how the Town Council can make a positive impact through the grants. Find out more about our [Grants on our website](#).



Message from the Chair of Redenhall with Harleston Town Council



Dear Residents,

I have now been Chair of Redenhall with Harleston Town Council for nearly 2 years. As you know, most of our new councillors were inexperienced, but we have had lots of training, and as time has gone on, we have learned a great deal.

Firstly, I'd like to thank all of the councillors for their dedication and for giving up their time to help with the decisions we make on behalf of our town, as well as all the fantastic staff we have in the office, the leisure centre, and, of course, our maintenance team. Running a town is no easy task, and I fully appreciate the work they all do.

I hope the people of Harleston have enjoyed the events we have organised, as well as the information we put out via our website and our radio interviews. We will always strive to be transparent and approachable, and we will do our best to keep our fantastic town a wonderful place to live.

So, on behalf of myself and the Town Council, have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes,
Mo Mba, Chair of the Town Council

Message from the Town Clerk—Clare Crane

Dear Residents,

As we approach the end of the year, we extend our warmest wishes to you all, wishing you a peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year. Do take a look at our website or this newsletter to find out our office opening times during the festive season.

On a personal note, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all Councillors who, throughout 2024, have dedicated themselves to attending meetings, undertaking training, and engaging with Town Council matters. I recognise this work can often be thankless, and I offer my heartfelt thanks to each of you.

I'd also like to extend my appreciation to all the staff at Redenhall with Harleston Town Council: our incredible maintenance team, who are always ready to lend a hand; the fantastic team at the Leisure Centre; and our resilient and patient Town Council office team and events co-ordinator. Your dedication and hard work are truly valued. Wishing you all a successful and fulfilling 2025.

Warm regards,
Clare Crane
Harleston Town Council

Dear Residents,

As the festive season approaches, we would like to inform you about the Town Council Office opening house during Christmas and New Year.

The Town Council Office will be closed from Friday 20th December and will reopen on Monday 6th January.

Should you need to get in touch with us during the festive period, please direct your emails to enquiries@harleston-tc.gov.uk.

In case of urgent maintenance issues you can reach us at 07804 125 304.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and extending our best wishes for a prosperous 2025!

Reminders!

Autumn Hedge maintenance

It's the time of year when we turn our attention to tidying up our gardens before the arrival of winter and the garden begins to hibernate. If your garden boundary is against public footpaths and highways please check your boundaries to ensure hedges are not encroaching on a public right of way. You do have a responsibility to cut back the vegetation sufficiently during the Autumn/Winter months to allow for seasonal growth without it reducing the width of the footpath. Many thanks in advance for your help in ensuring our footpaths and highways remain accessible to all.

Autumn Ditch maintenance

As we head into the winter season, it's essential to ensure that all ditches and drainage systems are clear and functioning properly. Regular maintenance helps prevent flooding and protects our homes and roads. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our community safe and well-maintained.

Banking Hub

We have been in contact with the Local Community Engagement Officer at The Banking Hub raising our concerns about the closure of the Hub. We have heard from them and they noted the Hub is currently closed for improvements and they will keep us up to date with the work and when it will reopen. We will keep local residents up to date via our usual channels.

Straight Lane

The Town Council have continued to work with all parties in relation to Straight Lane raising our concerns and those of our local residents as we know its importance for our town. Our District Councillors are currently working with their colleagues at South Norfolk Council and we will keep you up to date with developments as and when we know more information.

Update from Highways Winter Team

In May the Town Council provided the Winter Team at Norfolk County Council with information on grit bins within our Parish. The Winter Team is responsible for filling the grit bins as per their schedule and the replenishment of the salt /sand mix in grit bins is usually undertaken twice per winter season (which is in November/December and then again after Christmas, depending upon weather conditions). Unfortunately, due to funding pressures Norfolk County Council are unable to provide new/ additional grit bins in new locations.

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

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.



November update from our County Councillor Martin Wilby

Please note this has been edited for length and clarity. You will be able to find the full report in the minutes on our website [Town Council Minutes – Harleston Town Council](#)



Congratulations to Harleston Players and everyone involved with their recent production of DAD'S ARMY at the Harleston Sancroft Academy. It was an outstanding performance and the packed audiences certainly enjoyed recognising all of the characters that we are used to seeing on the TV.



Have your say on Norfolk County Council's savings proposals as it seeks to agree a balanced budget for 2025/26, NCC is asking for your views on a number of proposals to save money or raise revenue in the next financial year. As part of the council's work to find £47.72m of savings, public consultations are now open on three of the proposals under consideration. They are, Raising Council Tax, Reducing Street Light usage and Review of our Housing Related Support Services. Full details of these proposals, as well as information on how residents can have their say, can be found on our website or to receive a hard copy of the consultation document, or request in a different format residents can call 0344 800 8020, or email haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk The budget for 2025/26 will be agreed at the full council meeting on February 18th 2025.



More young people in Norfolk are being supported to stay at home with their families or return home, thanks to the specialist support being provided by NCC. The council's New Roads programme, which provides rap around support for children at risk of coming into care, or those already in care, has prevented 395 children coming into long-term care since it was launched four years ago. This has avoided costs of £35m and substantially improved outcomes for young people who have often faced significant challenges. The council is now extending the approach to work with children with disabilities and their families. The success is one of several outlined in the annual review of children's residential care.



NCC is calling on people from all different backgrounds and family make-ups to consider becoming adoptive parents. NCC is a proud partner of Adopt East and is currently looking for parents for 18 children in care waiting for their forever home. The council needs adopters for children of all ages and is particularly looking for adopters for brothers and sisters, toddlers and young children aged four and older and children with disabilities. For more information go to www.norfolk.gov.uk/adoption or call 01603 638343.



Are you 66 years or older? If you are, then you can travel on bus services in Norfolk and across England for FREE with a concessionary bus pass from NCC. You will be able to travel for FREE on all local bus services from 9.30am until the last bus of the day Monday to Friday and at all times during weekends and bank holidays. All information can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/concessionarytravel

Cllr Wilby's next surgery is at HIP on Saturday 4th January 2025 10.00 am.

November update from our District Councillor—James Eddy

Please note this has been edited for length and clarity. You will be able to find the full report in the minutes on our website [Town Council Minutes – Harleston Town Council](#)

At the most recent meeting of the Development Management Committee at South Norfolk Council, a detail came up that I thought I would share with you. The issue of planning and housebuilding in the local area can often be an emotive issue and the provision of affordable housing is a particular cause of debate. What I have long wondered is why it seems that when there is a need to cut costs on a development it is often the number of affordable homes that are removed from proposals? Interestingly, at this month's DMC meeting it was explained that it is often these affordable homes that are the only negotiable element within planning proposals. Essentially, things like biodiversity, and nutrient neutrality are non-negotiable elements. When combined with the National Planning Policy Guidelines effectively legally guaranteeing a standard level of profit for developers of around 20%, the effect is that there are going to be cases all around the country where planning authorities have little choice other than to remove affordable housing from developments. To be clear, my understanding is that South Norfolk Council has a track record of providing, on aggregate, more than the minimum requirement for social housing – as illustrated by the recently approved second development on Spirketts Lane, Harleston, which is entirely made up of affordable housing. However, it should be noted that the problem that arises from this is the fact that because it is all affordable no Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money comes to the parish, so there are no additional funds to improve infrastructure in the town despite the potential addition of several hundred people. Clearly, this is far from ideal and I think it is fair to say that planning policy is likely to remain something of a minefield in the coming years.

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to my District Councillor Members Ward Grant, which is an annual fund of £1000 that I can use to support various local clubs and organisations that are based in our Ward. So, if your club or organisation needs some financial support of over £100 for a specific project then please let me know how much money you require and what it is specifically for. For this and any other queries then please get in contact by emailing me at james.eddy@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk or pop in to see me at my next surgery at Harleston Information Plus on Saturday 25th January between 10am and 12pm.



*Visit
Harleston*

*Saturday
21st December*

10AM - 1PM

COME AND MEET THE MINIATURE DONKEYS,
AND TAKE PART IN OUR CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE HUNT.

**MARKET PLACE,
HARLESTON**

