



Your community update

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

Clerk: Mrs. C. Crane

April 2025



Welcome to our April Community Update!

In March we had the pleasure of welcoming Geoffrey Roy onto the Town Council as our newest councillor. Cllr Roy brings a wealth of experience within the local area, volunteering with key local groups and organisations, and from further afield with career background which has seen him working within farming, travel, photography, facilities management and as an electrician. The Town Council look forward to working with Cllr Roy for the benefit of our residents.

On this note:

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.

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

VE Day 80



On 8th May 2025 Redenhall with Harleston Town Council and the Harleston and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will be joining groups and people across the country in a shared moment of celebration and remembrance.

In Harleston we have arranged a day of events with more information to come in the following weeks. Underneath is an overview of the day and if you are available we would love to see you there to join in the celebrations and remembrance of this very special anniversary.

At 9.00am we will be raising the VE day flag at the War Memorial with our Town Crier, Norman Steer, reading the VE day 80 proclamation. From 10.00am - 11.30am we will be hosting a morning gathering at the Market Place so bring along a cup of tea and chair and join us! From 9.00pm we will gather once again at the War Memorial for an act of remembrance which will include laying of 24 individual crosses for men of Harleston, Wortwell and Redenhall who lost their lives during WW2. Then at 9.30pm we will join the nation in lighting the lamp and a reading of the Tribute. We will also be lead by Harleston Choral Society in singing the hymn 'I vow to thee my country'. We do hope you can join us on this very special day.

VE Day 80 Grant funding

The Town Council are pleased to announce that we have received a VE Day Grant from South Norfolk District Council to support us in everything we have planned for 8th May. Thank you South Norfolk District Council for your support!

Youth Forum



The Youth Forum held their second meeting in February. This initiative aims to give young people aged 11 to 18 a voice in our community whilst harnesses the ideas and energy of our youth for the benefit of all residents. The next Youth Forum meetings will be held at the Memorial Leisure Centre in the small meeting room (do ask the Gym reception for directions!) at 6.30pm on Monday 14th April.

Angles Way

Thank you to the residents who have spoken to us about the closure of the Angles Way footpath. We have been in contact with Norfolk County Council Highways, in particular the Norfolk Trails team about this closure. They have reported that they are working with the developers and Streetworks team to determine next steps for the path and will keep the Town Council up to date. In the interim residents can report defects such as obstructions of footpaths without a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) via their website: [Report a highways problem - Norfolk County Council](#).

Town Council updates continued...

Join the Harleston Town Volunteer Planter Group on 3rd May!



The Harleston Town Volunteer Planter Group are supporting the Town Council in getting the war memorial ready for VE 80 Day celebration and remembrance events. If you are free on 3rd May they will be meeting at the war memorial at 10.00am. No experience needed—just your enthusiasm! If you are interested please contact Cllr Eloise Wilkinson at Eloise.wilkinson@harleston-tc.gov.uk.

The Big South Norfolk Litter Pick

We are excited to let you know about the Big South Norfolk Litter Pick 2025 which is running from 1 March to 31 May 2025! This year organise a litter pick with your community group, charity or school and you will automatically be placed in to a prize draw with a chance to WIN £200*. Each group taking part will also receive a £20 voucher* to spend in their community!

* Terms and Conditions can be found on South Norfolk Council's website.

Hedge maintenance

If your garden or house boundary is against public footpaths and highways please check your boundaries to ensure hedges are not encroaching on a public right of way. As we are coming into Spring, and the bird nesting season, hedge maintenance can be conducted and hedges attended to, if required, as long as the necessary checks for nesting birds have been carried out prior to commencing any work. Many thanks in advance for your help in ensuring our footpaths and highways remain accessible to all.

Ditch maintenance

During this period it is 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.

Willow Walk Ditch

During the Town Councillors Surgery a resident highlighted the accumulation of rubbish in a ditch near Willow Walk and their concerns about potential flooding. The Town Council have written to the developers asking them to investigate and remedy the issue.



Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Consultation—closes on 13th April!

Take part in the Norfolk and Suffolk devolution consultation and find out more on the Governments website: [Norfolk and Suffolk devolution consultation – GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/norfolk-suffolk-devolution-consultation)



HM Government

HAVE YOUR SAY: NORFOLK & SUFFOLK DEVOLUTION

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS ON CREATING A NEW MAYORAL COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY FOR NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK TO BRING DEVOLUTION TO THE AREA.

WHAT IS ENGLISH DEVOLUTION?

Devolution is where areas and their local leaders gain powers and funding previously held by national government. This means important decisions are made by someone who understands the needs of your community and what changes will have the best and biggest impact.

WHAT IS A MAYORAL COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY?

Mayoral combined county authorities are organisations made up of a group of councils who agree to take on devolved powers and funding so that they can take decisions together across a bigger area. They are led by a Mayor – who is elected by you – and do not replace the councils in your area.



Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Consultation—take part!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR NORFOLK & SUFFOLK?

A new mayoral combined county authority for Norfolk and Suffolk would receive powers, responsibilities and funding to help:

- ✓ Improve **transport** to make it easier for people to commute and travel
- ✓ Tailor **skills and training** for adults to the jobs available locally
- ✓ Build **houses** in the right places, with the right infrastructure
- ✓ Attract **investment** and support **local businesses** to grow
- ✓ Maximise the benefits of the area's local natural **environment** and help tackle **climate change**
- ✓ Improve **health and wellbeing**
- ✓ Give the area **a stronger voice** nationally by taking a seat at the Prime Minister's Council of Nations and Regions

HOW TO ENGAGE?

The consultation is live and closes on **Sunday 13th April 2025 at 23:59**. It is open to all residents, businesses, community and voluntary groups, and other organisations in the area.



You can complete the consultation by scanning the QR Code or using **gov.uk/norfolk-and-suffolk-devolution**

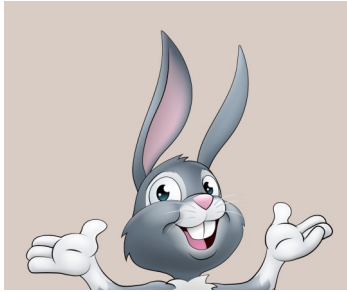
Visit Harleston Update!

March coffee morning

On 28th March we held a coffee morning at St. John's Church. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet so many of our residents coming together over the shared joy of a cup of tea and a slice of cake. The fantastic cakes were supplied by Bec's Cake Creations who is a regular at our market. Thank you to everyone who contributed and thank you to Bec's Cake Creations and St. John's Church for their support. This support really helps towards the running of our Visit Harleston events for all residents, families and children throughout the year.



Upcoming events Easter in Harleston!



From 7th - 22nd April you can take part in our Easter Bunny Trail throughout the town and find hidden bunnies in shop windows during the Easter Holidays. Pick up an entry form from Harleston Information Plus, Harleston Library and Harleston Leisure Centre. Once you have completed the trail and the form hand back in for a chance to win a fantastic hamper!

Car Boot Sales!

Back by popular demand! This year we are holding our wonderful car boot sales and our first one for 2025 is on 18th May on the Recreation Ground. It is £5 per car so if you have some things to sell come and join us!

Get involved!

The Town Council, via our Visit Harleston brand, is working hard to engage with our local community, shops, and businesses. If you are interested in finding out more and getting involved in any of our events, please contact us at events@harleston-tc.gov.uk.

Stay tuned for more details about our upcoming activities and initiatives by visiting www.visitharleston.org.uk.



Visit Harleston
EVENTS
2025

For a full list of events happening in Harleston — including those organised by our amazing voluntary groups and organisations — go to www.visitharleston.org.uk or scan the QR code below.

Follow us on socials -
Visit Harleston







Visit Harleston
EASTER
HARLESTON

7th - 22nd APRIL - TOWN CENTRE

Easter Bunny Trail throughout the town.
Find hidden bunnies in shop windows during the Easter Holidays.

Pick up an entry form from Harleston Information Plus, Harleston Library and Harleston Leisure Centre.
Complete the form and hand back in for a chance to win a family Easter hamper.

Scan for full details



www.visitharleston.org.uk



RECREATION GROUND,
HARLESTON

Visit Harleston
Car Boot SALE

Sunday

- 18th May
- 20th July
- 14th September

10AM - 1PM

SELLERS TO ARRIVE BETWEEN 9AM - 10AM
THEN EXIT BETWEEN 1PM - 2PM
ENTRANCE VIA WILDERNESS LANE ONLY

£5 per car (cash only)

Scan for full details



www.visitharleston.org.uk



South Norfolk **COMMUNITY AWARDS** *2025*

WHO'S YOUR SOUTH NORFOLK COMMUNITY HERO?

Nominations are now open to find
this year's community champions.

There are a number of categories to
nominate in, and it only takes five minutes.

Nominations close 30 May 2025.



Scan the QR code or
search South Norfolk
Community Awards to
find out more.



March update from our County Councillor Cllr Martin Wilby



Almost 100 towns and villages are to get new measures to make roads and footpaths safer, including electronic signs urging drivers to slow down. Norfolk County Council has agreed to make money available to help pay for 97 highway schemes, including vehicle-activated speed signs, bus shelters and new footpaths. NCC has agreed funding of £425,000 towards £850,000 worth of improvements through the popular annual parish partnership initiative. First launched in September 2011 the scheme invites communities to bid for cash to make improvements. Town and parish Councils will then match fund the county council money to pay the remaining cost of all the schemes. This year the schemes includes, 22 village gateways, 21 SAM2 cameras, 8 'trod' footpaths, 4 new footpaths and 10 bus shelters.



A brand-new Norwich Park and Ride service has recently been launched with a number of key enhancements for residents and visitors to enjoy, along with free travel for everyone on the first day of operation (Sunday 30th March). Norfolk County Council selected two operators to run the services following the re-tendering process at the end of last year. The process was carried out with the objective of running the services from all five sites with no subsidy from the council. From Sunday 30th March, First Bus will operate services from Airport, Thickthorn and Sprowston while Simonds will provide the service from Harford and Postwick. The new service will offer: earlier journeys in the morning, later journeys in the evening, increased services at most sites, Sunday services at all sites, Airport Thickthorn and Sprowston will have zero emission buses and continued low fares thanks to BSIP funding. For full details of the services including timetables and ticket prices visit www.norwichparkandride.co.uk



As part of the NCC budget for the upcoming year, additional household hazardous waste events will be held across the county. These events will take place at seven recycling centres this spring, supplementing the usual autumn events. The free events will be held throughout April and May 2025, and residents must use the recycling centre booking system to attend. Bookings will be open one week before each event. A list of acceptable items for disposal and the dates for these events can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/hazardouswaste

Your Norfolk Extra, the council's monthly digital newsletter goes out to almost 6,000 subscribers on the first Monday of each month, bringing them information and service updates from NCC. To help boost readership a promotional campaign has been started which includes advertising on the front page of the council website, social media alerts and editorial in Your Norfolk Magazine. NCC has also partnered with local businesses to offer regular prize draws for subscribers to win days out in the county – Norfolk Museums and Watatunga Wildlife Reserve being the first to offer prizes. To sign up visit our website at www.norfolk.gov.uk



The Government wants to see all councils in Norfolk replaced with fewer, unitary councils-that would be responsible for all services in their area. They have invited NCC and the seven district councils to submit interim proposals on 21st March and then developed proposals by 26th September. The county council's initial work suggests that having one council would save the most, followed by smaller savings for two councils. Having three or more would cost more money.

March update from our District Councillor— Cllr Trevor Graham

Local Government Reorganisation. South Norfolk Council (SNC) voted overwhelming to recommend a two Unitary Authority structure for Norfolk as part of local government reorganisation; an East Norfolk and West Norfolk division. Harleston would be in a new East Norfolk authority. A single Authority for the whole of Norfolk was initially proposed as a back up plan should the preferred structure be rejected by central government. Following discussion this was withdrawn mainly due to concerns about being too remote from the residents. A structure with three Authorities which would see parts of SNC stripped away and join an expanded Greater Norwich was soundly rejected. In this structure Harleston would be part of an Authority covering an area from the North Norfolk coast, South to the Waveney Valley market towns of Diss and Harleston and East to Great Yarmouth. The Greater Norwich authority would fit totally inside East Norfolk akin to the old West Berlin being totally within East Germany. The icing on the cake, the notional centre for Harleston would be Great Yarmouth.



Temporary Accommodation. SNC also agreed to accept matched funding from central government to help purchase additional housing for temporary accommodation properties.



Tourism. SNC are coordinating with the local Historical Society to deliver a programme of historical guided walks throughout the summer months. In particular SNC are producing a series of 'Masters of the Air' guided walks aligned to new publications for Wymondham, Diss, Aylsham, and Harleston. The Harleston community approach was commended by the regional organisers of Heritage Open Days in a recent presentation. This year, South Norfolk is to be the focus for Norfolk Heritage Open Days providing another opportunity for great publicity and promotion of Harleston. Many local groups are working together and have submitted their ideas as part of a coordinated programme.



Business and Community Awards. There were local mentions in the recent Business Awards. Ampersand Brew Co were highly commended for their impressive growth, local community focus, and strong commitment to sustainability, and Break Charity was a finalist in the Employer of the Year. Nominations for the Community Awards is now open.

Grants and Funding. Harleston Town Council were awarded a VE Day Grant from SNC to go towards the commemorations in May.



A Big South Norfolk Litter Pick scheme aims to keep our district clean and tidy. It offers to provide all the resources and equipment, a £20 voucher to spend in the community and the chance to win an additional £200.

Cllr Graham will not be available for a surgery in April but will hold their next surgery on 10 May at Harleston Information Plus on Exchange Street in Harleston at 10:00.

February update from our District Councillor— Cllr James Eddy

The latest in a series of so called 'Extraordinary General Meetings' of South Norfolk Council took place last week to address the ongoing plans for Local Government Reorganisation. Interestingly, there was largely consensus as all but one of the councillors present voted in favour of the two unitary proposal, which would see the South Norfolk District combined with Broadland, Norwich, Yarmouth and part of North Norfolk. While far from perfect, I voted in favour of the proposal as it seems to be the best option for prioritising services and not costing constituents more. Of course, it should be noted that the three unitary model that has Norwich as a separate authority on extended boundaries remains the favoured option among the other Norfolk district councils and is therefore probably most likely to be adopted as it stands. Still, there is a long road ahead so we will have to wait and see what happens.



Closer to home, I am happy to report that some of my member's ward grant money went to Exchange 2 and allowed them to buy a new pool/table tennis table for the cabin on the recreation ground. As I've reported before, Exchange 2 are doing good and important work helping to socialise the young people of the ward so I was especially pleased to be able to help them in this small way.



On a different note, I thought it would be a good idea to share a link to the online consultation that is currently taking place regarding Land Use in England that is running until April 25th. As much as anything, this consultation is about balancing, long term food security, planning developments, and targets on nature and climate that deliver multiple benefits and support economic growth. This cannot and should not be done without the knowledge and experience of people living in rural areas and in particular farmers. After all, these are the people who manage much of the land upon which our food security is dependent. I know it is easy to be cynical about something like this but I do think that if you have strong opinions about the use of land locally then it is better to use the opportunity to share your voice. So, if you or someone you know would be interested in filling out the Land Use Consultation the link to follow is: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use-framework/land-use-consultation/consultation/subpage.2025-01-21.3793375962/>. Alternatively, you can email me at james.eddy@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk and I can send you the direct link that way.

Of course, if there are any other issues you want my help with then you can contact that email address or pop in to see me at my next councillor surgery at Harleston Information Plus on Saturday 29th March between 10am and 12.

