

Welcome to **YOUR** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

February 2026



Redenhall
with
Harleston
Town Council

www.harleston-tc.gov.uk



Congratulations to A Boutique on The Thoroughfare, in being named as a finalist in the South Norfolk Retailer of the Year category at the Broadland & South Norfolk Business Awards! What a great start to the year!

The Awards celebrate the best of local enterprise across our districts. They highlight creativity and excellence across a wide range of categories. For independent retailers like A Boutique, being recognised as a finalist is a testament to the hard work, passion and community support that go into every aspect of the business.

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council is especially proud to see a business in our community thriving so well and gaining recognition on such a prestigious platform. A Boutique is a shining example of the entrepreneurial spirit that makes our town such a special place to live and shop.

Please join us in celebrating this wonderful nomination, pop into A Boutique soon to show your support for this local treasure.

We are your advocates, and your voice in the heart of our community.

Our mission is simple but vital: to ensure that Harleston continues to thrive, grow, and remain a place where residents feel heard, supported, and proud to call home.

From maintaining vibrant public spaces and community services, to supporting local businesses and fostering economic growth, our focus is on building a town that works for everyone.

We'd love to hear any thoughts you have about the way we communicate with you.

If you'd like to make a suggestion or would like any content to be included in our newsletter, please email
communications@harleston-tc.gov.uk



Brackets!

We know many of you are keen to understand the current situation with the flag brackets in the town centre, and why they cannot be used now.

We must ensure that all fixings for each bracket meet the required safety standards and current codes of practice. This has proved to be a complex task. Each bracket is different, the building materials vary, and many properties are listed, which means additional heritage considerations must be taken into account. Many of the existing fixings do not meet modern safety requirements, so detailed assessments are necessary.

To ensure this work is done thoroughly and safely, we have engaged a senior, professionally accredited structural engineer and project manager to support the Council throughout the process.

We are currently completing load calculations for every bracket and obtaining quotes from specialist testing companies. We expect the full testing of all bracket fixings to be completed by April.

We appreciate your patience while we work to make the brackets safe for future use.

Keeping our car parks free to users

Harleston is one of the few towns in the area that provides free car parking, and of this we're enormously proud. The free car parks allow residents to shop and access local services, as well attracting high visitor numbers, which helps keep our high street thriving and accessible.

Did you know that we lease our car parks from South Norfolk District Council? The combined cost of the lease, along with regular cleaning and maintenance, now amounts to nearly £80,000.

We're extremely grateful to the Harleston community who generously donate towards the cost of running the car parks. This includes many of our local businesses, as well as residents. Huge thanks to everyone who has donated this year - your generosity helps keep our car parks free, and makes a difference to our community. Your support truly helps keep Harleston accessible, welcoming, and vibrant.

Our current car park lease contract with South Norfolk District will be up for renewal in late 2027.

If you'd still like to donate, please email enquiries@harleston-tc.gov.uk

Car park signage

We're pleased to share that, following a resident's survey highlighting the lack of directional signage to the town's car parks, Norfolk County Council (NCC) has confirmed that improvements to highways signage on the approaches to Harleston will be included in its 2026/27 budget.

A proposal by NCC Highways will be submitted to their Cabinet in March 2026, where we hope final approval will be given. The scheme will be designed and delivered by NCC, and the Town Council will review the proposals once full details are available.



Town Council Updates

The Town Council is committed to listening to your concerns, representing your views, and making decisions that meet the needs of all who live and work here.

Inside Your Town Council

Town Council meetings take place once a month. It's where all Councillors and members of Council staff, such as the Clerk, come together to discuss local issues, make decisions, and plan projects that affect our community.

Meetings include updates from our various committees such as the Planning Committee to consider planning applications, and Finance Committee to approve budgets.

Meetings are open to the public and press, giving everyone a chance to see how local decisions are made and to have their say.

The next Town Council Meeting is on Wednesday 25th February at 7pm at Harleston Memorial Leisure Centre.

Stay informed – subscribe to our news updates

Keep up-to-date with what's going on at Redenhall with Harleston Town Council.

Visit www.harleston-tc.gov.uk and click Subscribe!



**NEED TO ASK
A QUESTION
ABOUT YOUR
TOWN?**

 www.harleston-tc.gov.uk

 enquiries@harleston-tc.gov.uk

 Or call 01379 854519 during office hours

Speak to a Councillor at a Drop-in surgery

Do you have a question for our Councillors, or want to know what's happening in the town?

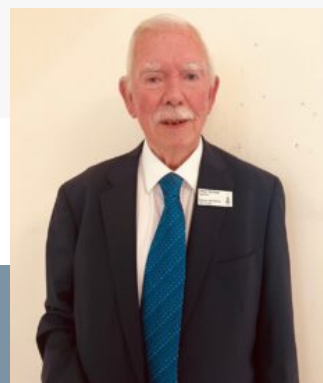
Our Town Councillor surgeries are informal drop-in sessions where you can speak directly with Town Councillors. Whether you'd like to:

- raise a local issue or concern
- ask questions about council services or decisions
- or find out how you can get more involved in local matters.

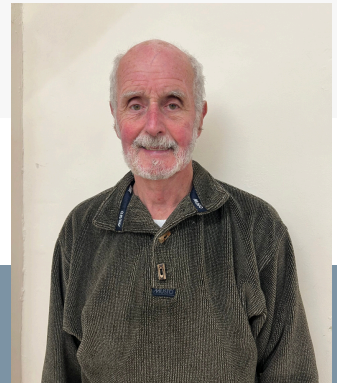
Councillors Adrian Brownsea and John Graham will be there to answer all your questions. No appointment necessary.

When: Saturday 21st February, 10am-12pm

Where: Harleston Information Plus,
Exchange Street, IP20 9AB



Cllr Brownsea



Cllr Graham

Town Council Updates

Question: What is Council Tax Precept?

Answer: Each year, a small portion of the council tax you pay is set aside to help fund essential local services. This portion is called the council tax precept.



In simple terms, the precept is the amount added to your council tax bill to pay for specific local services. These services may include things like community safety, local facilities, support services, and other functions that help keep our area running smoothly.

The precept is not a separate bill, it's included within your overall council tax payment.

The Precept increase

For the financial year 2026/27, an overall precept increase of 3.5% compared with the previous year has been recommended.

This increase reflects the rising costs the Council faces, including inflation, higher prices for goods and services, increased demand for services, and general running costs. The 3.5% increase is considered sufficient to cover these anticipated cost pressures while allowing services to continue at their current level.

The aim is to manage costs responsibly, while helping to avoid the need for larger increases in future years.

What does this increase mean for your Council Tax?

A percentage increase can sound worrying, so it's helpful to look at what this means in real terms.

For a Band D property (which is used as the standard comparison):

- If the precept was £200 per year in 2025/26
- A 3.5% increase would add £7 per year
- This is around 13 pence per week.

Why this matters

By agreeing to a modest increase now:

- Essential local services can continue without disruption
- Rising costs can be managed responsibly
- Larger increases in the future may be avoided.

The council is committed to keeping costs as low as possible while ensuring services remain reliable and effective for residents.

Example

Current yearly precept	Increase (3.5%)	New yearly amount
£150	£5.25	£155.25
£200	£7.00	£207.00
£250	£8.75	£258.75

We hope this information helps. You can find out more within the Council meeting minutes, found on our website: www.harleston-tc.gov.uk/town-council-minutes

Town Council Updates

What we're working on now

We've hit the ground running in 2026, with a wide range of exciting projects already underway across the town. From major refurbishments to new partnerships and forward planning for community events, it's been a busy and productive start to the year. Here's a snapshot of what we're working on:

- Tender process for new management of the Recreation & Leisure Facilities
- Refurbishment of the clock tower
- Refurbishment of the town sign
- Review of the town's play areas
- Planning for this year's Christmas lights
- Launch of a new Traders Partnership.

Visit www.harleston-tc.gov.uk to see the latest updates, where we'll keep you updated on each project as they progress.

Charity of the month

Harleston
Information *plus*

Harleston is lucky to be home to so many wonderful charities and community organisations, each doing incredible work to support, engage, and enrich the lives of local residents. From offering practical advice and guidance to creating opportunities for learning, volunteering, hobbies and social connection, there really is something for everyone in our town.

Each month, we'll shine a light on one of the wonderful charities and organisations in Harleston, giving residents a closer look at the support available in our community. This month, we are delighted to highlight Harleston Information Plus (HIP).

HIP provides a wide range of services tailored to the needs of the community:

Information and advice: guidance on topics including benefits, housing, health, and local services. Their trained staff can help you navigate complex paperwork or point you toward the right support.

Digital support: If you need assistance with computers, email, or accessing online services, HIP offers one-on-one support.

Community projects: HIP organises events and activities aimed at bringing people together, reducing social isolation, and strengthening community bonds..

Whether you are seeking advice, looking to learn new skills, or wanting to get involved in your community, HIP is here as a friendly and reliable point of contact.

Jobs club: Wednesdays at 10am. For careers advice, training and support with CV and application, and for volunteer opportunities

Local referrals: If HIP cannot directly provide a service, they maintain an extensive network of local organisations and charities, ensuring you're connected to the right support

Exchange Street, IP20 9AB

Monday-Friday 9.30am-3pm

Saturday 9.30am-1pm



Harleston Information Plus

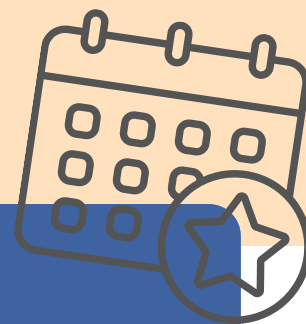
What's on



Visit Harleston

The Town Council has been hard at work planning an exciting calendar of events for 2026! We're delighted to give you some hints of what you have to look forward to in the year ahead.

We hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy and bring the community together



Coming up



Summer food festival



Summer beach festival



Halloween trail



Christmas lights switch-on

Dates and more information about all our events will be shared very soon



www.visitharleston.org.uk



Visit Harleston

Car boot sales

Make a note in your diaries, the car boot sales are back by popular demand! We'll host three car boot sales on the Recreation Ground again this summer.

So make a note of these dates, to come grab yourself a bargain, some food and fun too.

Sunday 17th May

Sunday 19th July

Sunday 13th September

More information will be shared soon.

Other events in Harleston

If you're organising a public or community event that you'd like the Council to promote in our newsletter, please email communications@harleston-tc.gov.uk

Stay up to date with Roadworks



We know many residents and local businesses have been feeling frustrated by the ongoing roadworks around the town, and we want you to know that we hear you.

Roadworks fall under the remit of Norfolk County Council Highways and in many cases, the Town Council isn't made aware of roadworks until they start. But we will always do our best to keep you informed as soon as we are made aware of them, and as far in advance as possible.

This week, we met with the NCC Streetworks team, who are responsible for approving roadworks and ensuring appropriate signage is in place. We gave them your feedback on how the disruption of recent roadworks has been, and how the signage needed to be improved. They have ensured that future roadworks will have improved signage directing drivers to the town centre.

Streetworks also let us know about several projects expected to begin over the coming months. As soon as dates and details are confirmed, we will pass this information on to you.

The Streetworks team have also reassured us that they carefully plan roadworks to:

- ensure diversion routes are considerate and well thought out
- make sure signage is clear, accurate, and easy to follow
- avoid too many roadworks taking place at the same time, so movement around the town can continue to flow
- prevent works from taking place during key periods, such as school exam times or major local events.

To stay up to date with planned roadworks, you can subscribe to our news updates at www.harleston-tc.gov.uk. For live updates as they happen, visit www.one.network/uk/norfolk.

We hope that you'll notice an improvement in the signage put up for future roadworks. Thank you for your patience, and please be assured that we will continue to communicate updates whenever we can.

Visit www.harleston-tc.gov.uk to subscribe

You'll need to verify your email address once you've subscribed.
Please remember to check your Junk mailbox.

New Year. New Goals. Stronger You.

If you've been thinking about improving your fitness, now is the perfect time to join us!

January got the year off to a powerful start, with more members, fuller classes, and incredible energy on the gym floor! Lets keep the momentum going during February!

Our group fitness classes are thriving, packed with motivated members pushing each other to succeed.

There's always room for more members. So whether you're a beginner or a seasoned athlete, there's something for everyone. From strength training and HIIT, to cardio and flexibility sessions.

Visit www.harlestongym.co.uk to view our timetable.

There's always room for more members. So whether you're a beginner or a seasoned athlete, there's something for everyone. From strength training and HIIT, to cardio and flexibility sessions.

WHY JOIN?

- A welcoming, supportive community
- Expert instructors to guide and motivate you
- A wide range of classes included in your membership
- A buzzing, high-energy atmosphere
- The perfect environment to stay consistent and see real results

SPRING INTO FITNESS SPECIAL OFFER!

Ready to kickstart your fitness journey?
Join our gym during March or April and enjoy
6 months for the price of 5!

ONE MEMBERSHIP. UNLIMITED CLASSES. NO EXTRA FEES.

Every member gets unlimited access to our gym and access to all our group fitness classes, giving you the flexibility to train how you want, when you want.

PAY MONTHLY

- Junior membership from £19
- Corporate memberships from £24
 - Concessions from £27
 - Standard Adult from £33

JOIN NOW AT
www.harlestongym.co.uk