

26th January 2026 Parish Council Information Pack

Appendix 1

Norfolk gritting vehicles head out over winter season

Norfolk County Council's winter gritting is underway, with gritters active on A/B roads, key bus routes, and village access roads, using new tech for efficiency. The first runs of the recent winter season (late 2025/early 2026) started as temperatures dropped, utilizing the 58-strong fleet with automated salting to cover 2,200 miles of routes, supported by stocked salt barns and public grit bins.

Updates are posted on their social media using #NorfolkWinter, with a dedicated website for info, and recent campaigns even involved naming the gritters. Residents can also check this year's gritting routes using the online map on the council's website

(<https://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/maps/gritting.aspx>) If you'd want to report any gritting issues please contact the Report a Highways Problem section on the Norfolk County Council website

(<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/63696/Report-a-highways-problem>)

Norfolk County Council takes first place in the Eastern region in annual Highways and Transport Satisfaction Survey

Norfolk County Council has once again demonstrated strong performance in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public Satisfaction Survey, taking the top spot in the Eastern region for overall satisfaction and second out of 29 county councils across England.

The annual survey, which gathers public views on highways and transport services, saw Norfolk achieve an overall satisfaction score of 48%, well above the national average of 40%.

This marks the 15th consecutive year Norfolk has participated in the survey, and the 7th year in a row that we have come either first or second overall.

Key highlights from this year's results include:

- **Top Regional Performer: Norfolk ranked 1st in the Eastern Region for overall satisfaction.**
- **Some of the best above average score were in our bus services thanks to improvements that have been made as part of our Bus Service Improvement Plan.**

The 'local bus services' overall category we were 10% above the group average with sub indicators as follows: **Public Transport Information (11% above group average)**

Frequency of bus services (9% above group average)

Ease of access to school / work (6% above group average)

Condition of highways (8% above group average)

Norfolk secures multi-year funding boost for highways and bus services

Norfolk County Council has welcomed two major funding announcements from government, providing long-term certainty for highways maintenance and bus services for the first time in many years.

The multi-year settlements will allow the council to plan with confidence and deliver programmes of work that join up different funding streams to maximise impact for residents and businesses.

The council has received confirmation of its highway's maintenance funding allocations through to 2029/30. Funding will rise from £56 million in 2025/26 to over £83 million by 2029/30 - a £27 million increase over the period.

Norfolk's future bus grant allocations have also been confirmed, covering both revenue (for services) and capital (for schemes) funding through to 2029/30. Annual funding for bus services across Norfolk will now exceed £15 million.

Norfolk secures more than £12 million for active travel improvements

Norfolk County Council has been awarded more than £12 million in capital funding and nearly £3 million in revenue funding to improve walking, wheeling, and cycling infrastructure across the county from the Department for Transport's Active Travel Capability Fund.

The allocation means Norfolk will receive:

- **£3,052,372 per year in capital funding from 2026/27 to 2029/30**
- **£957,705 per year in revenue funding from 2026/27 to 2028/29**

This long-term settlement will provide certainty for planning and delivering projects that make it easier and safer for residents to walk, cycle, and wheel around the county.

Are you ready to take on the 30-day health challenge in 2026?

If you've ever set a New Year's resolution only to see it slip by February, you're not alone - but 2026 could be different.

Norfolk County Council is encouraging residents across Norfolk and Waveney to kick start the new year by signing up to the 30-day health challenge, a simple and supportive way to make positive changes to health using the free online Ready to Change tool.

The challenge is designed to help people make realistic, achievable lifestyle changes over 30 days; a timeframe which experts say is far more manageable than aiming for drastic, long-term change all at once.

Ready to Change also signposts to lots of local organisations which can help you achieve your goals, including free weight management, smoking cessation and fitness groups.

Visit www.readytochange.co.uk to find out more about the 30-day health challenge, take health quizzes and sign up for expert health guidance and support to get you the success you deserve in 2026.

How do I get involved in the 30-day health challenge?

Step 1: Visit the Ready to Change website and choose one of the following health challenges:

- **Aim for a healthier weight**
- **Drink less alcohol**
- **Quit smoking**
- **Eat more healthily**
- **Be more active**

Step 2: Sign up to receive free weekly expert health guidance, tips and support by email over the next 30 days.

Connect to Work is aimed at people aged 18 and over from Norfolk (and 16-17 in some cases) from a wide range of cohorts including people with mental and physical health challenges, learning disabilities, neurodiversity, care leavers, carers, military veterans, ex-offenders, the homeless, refugees and victims of domestic abuse.

People who are in work but at risk of having to give up due to their health condition or other complex challenges will also be assisted.

To find out how to access support via Connect to Work, please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/workingwell or email us on connecttowork@norfolk.gov.uk

Made Smarter funding for region' s manufacturing businesses set to double

Advanced manufacturing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the East of England are set to receive more support to grow and innovate after the Government agreed to double its funding for the Made Smarter Adoption (MSA) programme.

The programme will deliver funding, impartial advice, a roadmap from digital specialists, and leadership and management development programmes to upskill workforces. Norfolk County Council will also be responsible for delivering and processing 48 match-funded grants delivered up to £20k.

A successful pilot has seen Norfolk County Council lead a £1.2m programme in 2025/26, supporting more than 88 SMEs in the region with digital support and roadmaps for implementation, leadership and management, organisational change. Funding for a £2.4m programme for 2026/27, with the potential for a significant increase in future years, has now been confirmed - subject to Government funding and performance.

Norfolk County Council's cabinet agreed the funding and to the council being the accountable body for the programme when it met on 5th January 2026.

The East of England Made Smarter Adoption Programme Board is made up of upper tier local authorities from Bedfordshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Suffolk.

Appendix 2

Bradwell Parish Council Finance Minutes Thursday 18th December 2025

1. Present: Cllrs. Sargeant, Hamilton, Watson, Wainwright and A. Vanderpal
Gill Clerk/RFO. Vicki Assistant Clerk (training purposes only)
2. Apologies Cllr. Frew
3. Minutes 20th November 2025 meeting were signed by Cllr. Sargeant.
Reserve balances in accordance with change of guidelines and audit requirements were discussed and clarified
4. Cllrs. Sargeant, Hamilton and Gill had joined a Team Meeting with GYBC and Borough Councillors regarding proposed expansion of CCTV on the Mill Lane Centre site. It was apparent that Bradwell Parish Council may be approached to help with funding as this project would be beneficial to Bradwell residents. A concern was raised that some exits and a large part of the field, including BPC assets i.e picnic benches would still be un-protected, and CCTV coverage of the full site would be a more sensible option.
If GYBC decide to proceed with extended coverage supported with a higher Capital Bid PBC would consider further investment. In the meantime, it was agreed to earmark 10% of the GYBC current proposed cost of £8,000. Members requested that the above suggestion and requests for further costs be put forward at the next GYBC Team meeting.
5. BPC budget earmarked funds for Leo Coles Pavilion Phase 1 stand at £65,000 with an expected Bohemians grant of £18,000. It was agreed to earmark a further £75,000 for LCP Phase 2.
Gill informed members that 30 hours office coverage was proving insufficient and needed to be increased by a further 10-15 hours per week. As both Clerk and Assistant Clerk do not wish to increase their hours an additional member of staff would be required as soon as possible. It was agreed to increase Staff budget by further £10,000.
6. Increase Events budget for BPC shows from £1,800.00 to £3,500 for 2026
7. Bank balances were agreed with no movement necessary pending expected expenditure and increase in FSCS protected limits
8. Proposed budget to include Staff costs increase by 23%, Projects increase by 130% and Events increase to £3,500. It was agreed to propose an increase in Precept for 2026-27 of 8% to Full Council
9. Any other business: Should Full Council decide not to invest in BWG Insurance to give added protection on expenditure for LCP project members agreed to propose to Full Council that Clerk increase our Barclaycard spending limit up to a maximum of £30,000 temporarily from January to 31st October 2026. This would be for paying builder and purchases relating only to this project and as within our Financial Regulations payments in full by monthly direct debit therefore not incurring any interest payments.
10. Next meeting date were agreed 15th January 2026 1pm LCP.
Preliminary proposals to Full Council meeting:
 - i. **To earmark £800 from BPC budget towards ongoing maintenance of CCTV coverage on Mill Lane Centre site.**
 - ii. **Agree to advertise for additional member of staff and increase office hours by 10-15hrs pm**
 - iii. **In the event of Full Council deciding not to invest in BWG Insurance Clerk to increase our Barclaycard spending limit up to a maximum of £30,000 temporarily from January to 31st October 2026**
 - iv. **Increase earmarked funds for LCP from £75,000 to £150,000 to incorporate Phase 2**
 - v. **Agree proposed budget for 2026-27**
 - vi. **Agree preliminary proposed precept increase for 2026-27 of 8%**

Appendix 3

Bradwell Parish Council
Finance Minutes
Thursday 15th January 2026

11. Present: Cllrs. Sargeant, Hamilton, Watson, and A. Vanderpal
Gill Clerk/RFO. Vicki Assistant Clerk (training purposes only)
12. Apologies Cllr. Frew and Wainwright
13. Minutes 18th December 2025 meeting were agreed signed by Cllr. Sargeant.
14. Reserve and General Fund balances were agreed and updated for 2026-27 as follows:
 - i. £1179 Covid
 - ii. £75000 Leo Coles Pavilion renovation phase 2
 - iii. £4000 Youth Initiative
 - iv. £1500 Interest earned
 - v. £1000 Hobland Park development
 - vi. £2000 Low mobility allotment plot
 - vii. £5000 Contingency Fund
 - viii. £800 CCTV Mill Lane Maintenance
 - ix. £10000 Neighbourhood Plan
 - x. £1215 Concurrent FundTotal earmarked funds as above £101,694 with £85,959 general reserve fund
15. Budget notes to be updated and circulated to members of group prior to PC meeting 26th January 2026.
16. Bank balances were agreed £187,659.52 as at 31st December 2025
Clerk had moved £10,000 from Lloyds Instant access account to Lloyds Business account to cover upcoming payments. It was agreed that no further movement between accounts apart from funding general expenses was necessary and LCP Phase 1 expenditure would be taken from Barclays Business Premium account.
17. Members discussed increase to Precept should be kept as low as possible with current cost of living being impacted in many ways.
It was agreed that an increase of 8% should be put to Full Council with a draft band D figure of 4198:
Our 2026/27 budget income would be £234,994 which include precept 8% £111,055 and proposed grant income of £95,000 for LCP renovation and extension of car park projects.
Our 2026/27 expenditure budget would be £248,704, including proposed grant expenditure, which could result in £13,710 deficit from general reserves if budgets fully utilised.
18. Gill advised members that French Builders were unable to take payment by Barclaycard therefore increasing our credit limit to give protection under Section 75 was no longer an option. Gill recommend that BPC consider taking out an Insurance Backed Guarantee Policy for Phase 1 expenditure protecting public funds should French Builder's cease to trade. Policies offer protection for 2, 6 and 10-year protection for a one-off premium.
19. **Proposals to Full Council meeting 26th January 2026:**
 - i. **Agree budget 2026/27 proposal**
 - ii. **Increase Precept by 8%**
2025/26 Precept £102,829 + 8% = £111,055 divided by GYBC draft band D nos. 4198 = average household increase £26.45 pa (£2.20 pm).
 - iii. **No movement of funds between bank accounts required**
 - iv. **BPC to take out 6-year cover Insurance Backed Guarantee Policy for final expenditure payment of Phase 1 for a premium of circa £1900**
 - v. **To earmark a further £75,000 2026/27 for LCP phase 2**
 - vi. **To earmark £800 2026/27 towards ongoing maintenance of CCTV Mill Lane Centre**
 - vii. **Agree to employ an additional member of staff and increase office hours by 15 hrs pw. Staff and Standards to arrange advert to be publicised by end of January 2026**
20. There was no other business discussed
21. Date of next meeting Wednesday 18th February 2026

Appendix 4

Minutes of Properties & Assets Meeting

Minutes 22nd January 2026

1. Present:
Cllrs. Sargeant, Hamilton, Watson, S. Vanderpal, A. Vanderpal and Symonds. Guest: Gareth Cavill GO Architecture Limited
Gill Crossland Clerk and Vicki Hemp Assistant Clerk
 2. Apologies: None
 3. 2nd December 2025 Minutes were agreed and signed by Chair, Cllr. Sargeant
 4. Finance Working Group have proposal to Full Council on 26th January 2026. It was agreed to fully discuss in this meeting.
 5. Bohemians are imminent in applying for grant for two storage units to be placed on Green Lane Playing Field.
 6. It was agreed that Policies & Procedures should work with Karl Bues of Bohemians on putting together an Agreement between Bohemians Football Club and Bradwell Parish Council. Clerk to arrange.
 7. Cllr. Symonds confirmed that the football sign currently on front of LCP will be removed. However, a Bohemians replacement will not be put up by flags will be put around the field.
 8. Next steps were discussed for Phase 2 LCP renovation work. Gareth will bring to next P&A meeting revised plans.
9/10/11/13/ - To be carried forward to next P&A meeting
 12. Members were advised that Office had been successful in obtaining 80% grant for replacement bus shelter on Beccles Road. Members agreed purchase should go ahead and fitted asap.
 14. No other business was discussed.
 15. Date of next meeting was agreed for 12th February 2026
 16. **Proposal for Full Council 26th January 2026**
To purchase bus shelter and arrange old shelter to be taken down and new fitted asap.
8. Next meeting date TBA