

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FOR EDGEFIELD PC – MARCH 2026

1. COUNTY ELECTIONS GUIDANCE FOR 7 MAY

I am pleased to have accepted the invitation to contest the elections for the County Council on behalf of the Lib Dems. Just for the avoidance of doubt, I will continue as your District councillor whatever the outcome. Due to electoral boundary revisions, the village will become part of the new Holt division instead of Melton Constable currently.

The list of candidates will be published after the 9 April so you can see which person and their party you have the choice of voting for.

Whether you vote in person or have registered for a postal vote, you will receive a poll card through the post. If you don't get one or you have any questions about returning your postal vote, then please contact the Council Electoral Services Team either by phoning **01263 513811** or emailing electoralservices@north-norfolk.gov.uk.

There are 3 ways in which you can vote- in person, by post or by using a proxy vote. The deadline for postal votes is 5pm on 21 April 2026 and proxy votes is 5pm on 28 April. Remember if you miss the postal vote date, you are able to vote in person instead on polling day with proof of ID.

Please do not forget to take valid photo ID to the polling station and if you have any doubts or questions regarding this please contact Electoral Services as soon as possible to obtain a dispensation certificate instead of using ID from the Council.

The polling station at the Village Hall will be open on 7 May from 7am until 10pm and counting votes will begin at 10am on Friday 8 May.

2. BT LANDLINE OUTAGE

I was made aware that some areas have had their landlines cut off due to an accident at the phone exchange in Saxthorpe when contractors damaged some cabling. This is very inconvenient and dangerous in cases of an emergency for those of us whose only means of communicating is via a landline. Having taken this up with BT they confirmed that service would not be restored until 16 March no matter how I tried to speed up the repair. Part of the delay is due to Highways having to assess and allow a road closure according to Openreach.

3. ANGLIAN WATER (AW) MEETING

A recent meeting with AW executives announced a new round of the Thriving Communities Fund about to start providing £6m to deliver grants for better drainage features such as ponds, rain gardens, green spaces, water quality improvements and community water resilience projects. They also outlined the various ambitious

investment in infrastructure for our area like upgrading of Corpusty treatment works, a desalination plant and water transfer pipeline from Lincolnshire instead of new reservoirs.

4. CORPUSTY SCHOOL CLOSURE LATEST

A petition has been signed by over 100 Corpusty area residents (at the time of writing this) to enable our MP Steffan Aquarone to get answers to questions asked in Parliament regarding the Department of Education's intentions for the school's future. In particular we believe that until the election has taken place to determine the political control at the County Council it would be premature to make any decision at this time. The petition also calls for more analysis of alternative options at the school in future like combining special education needs with regular education for example.

5. FLY- TIPPING AND LITTERING

My concerns about the levels of street litter and also organized criminal fly-tipping across the county will be discussed in my motion to Full Council on 25 March. I will be asking the Council to improve how we respond to the challenges. I propose an increase in fines to the maximum permitted for such offences and more rapid responses to clear tipping incidents on public land. Our farmers are under pressure to clean up litter dumping on their land by la and not all can afford insurance cover to make it affordable.

6. EMERGENCY HELP WITH FUEL BILLS ANNOUNCED

Given the recent rise in fuel costs we know the price cap system for gas and electric has no equivalence for the 45% of our residents who are dependent on heating oil. This creates real hardship for some households. The Cabinet with my support resolved on 9 March to set up a £50,000 fund to assist people really struggling to afford heating for their homes as costs spiral.

7. HUNNY BELL UPDATE

Planners are working to resolve one or two issues with the application which are likely to be resolved to enable the matter to go before the 16 April Development Committee or if delayed to the 15 May meeting.

Please note that no artificial intelligence is used in preparing this report and thank you for taking time to read it.

Cllr Andrew Brown