

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FOR EDGEFIELD PC – JULY 2026

1.CORPUSTY POST OFFICE AND SHOP

I am sure some Edgefield residents rely on the post office in Corpusty but unfortunately it is due to close because of the postmaster retiring, It has also prompted a temporary closure of the shop for a period until the sale is completed. Spare a thought for your neighbours in Corpusty who have lost their school to a Trust who prefers to ship children to Astley or Reepham schools instead and now their post office is disappearing.

2.SHRUBBS POULTRY FARM

The application for the large poultry farm following amendments to implement a legal decision by the High Court to force better safeguards for animal welfare on the operation of the new operation. There will always be lingering concerns about large factory farms but the planners' hands are tied by the Court decision and the confirmation of approval by the Environment Agency. A decision will be taken whether to take the case to the planning committee.

3.DAM HILL PLANTATION

Planning Enforcement are considering another challenge for referral to the Planning Inspector in respect of decking and services to the units on the site in addition to potential sewage spillage being a breach whilst the Enviro Agency investigate further.

4.SUFFIELD PARK ELECTION

I have been joined by a new colleague, Tyler Wragg aged 20, who held the Suffield Park, Cromer NNDC seat comfortably with 65% of the votes following the resignation of the long-standing Cllr Spagnola who decided to emigrate recently. This maintains the Lib Dem 26 seat stronghold. Tyler began his interest in local politics as a founder member of the Youth Parliament set up by the District Council to encourage engagement at an early age.

5.POLICE COMMISSIONER (PCC) ELECTION

At the time of writing the result of the PCC election has just been announced and Reform UK's Colin Sutton a retired Metropolitan Police officer has been elected to govern fellow policemen for 2 years. I have to question the rationale for having a policeman marking the work of other police officers, hardly independent, and also the misguided decision to spend £2million of taxpayers' money on a position due to be transferred to the directly elected mayor in 2028.

6.ALDI VERSUS LIDL IN HOLT

A last-minute legal challenge by Aldi has deferred the Planning Development Committee considering both applications together at this month's meeting which is now expected to be decided at the 13 August meeting. There will be one winner only because according to analysis Holt only has capacity for one more store in addition to Budgens in the town. Meanwhile we continue to wait for the decision.

7.LOCAL PLAN AND CALL FOR SITES PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

The review of the new 2024-40 Local Plan launched last December has begun. We ran the first consultation last month for landowners to release sites for future developments. On 20 July we will launch a second "call for sites" and also a consultation for both public and professionals for new ideas to go in the next Local Plan due to finish in 2029 with the new East Norfolk Unitary Council. This process is imposed on the Council by the current Government as part of their plan to improve how planning will deliver new houses more quickly by the end of the current parliament. More info is available at www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/localplanreview and www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/callforsites.

8.OUTLOOK MAGAZINE

The Council's latest magazine will soon be delivered to every door to inform residents of the variety of activities being undertaken by the Council. We maintain this information in print as opposed to digital format because we are aware that many do not have access to digital devices. I am pleased that the Council have included an article on fly-tipping penalties as a result of a motion I brought to the Council a few months ago receiving support from all 40 councillors.

9.PLANNING DESIGN GUIDE

The Council maintains a major planning guide for developers and we are working on updating the current 2011 document with a new guide partly because there is tremendous change happening courtesy of the current government. Its very important to keep pace with new techniques but we have to make sure that new properties are using locally sourced materials and consistently designed in their surroundings.

10.ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Next week I am due to attend a meeting with my councillor colleagues in Holt and the Police to discuss the recent upsurge in criminal behaviour in the town and what can be done to manage vigilance and policing better.

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