

August 2026

Serving Holt Town and the villages of Briningham, Brinton with Sharrington, Briston, Edgefield, High Kelling, Hindolveston, Hunworth, Letheringsett with Glandford, Melton Constable, Stody, Swanton Novers, Thornage with Little Thornage, Thurning, Wood Norton.

Love Your Market Town Grant scheme reopened

Councillors are encouraged to share this grant opportunity with local town councils, businesses, community groups and other partners who may have ideas to increase footfall and encourage people to spend more time in Norfolk's market towns.

Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 are available for projects such as events, town trails, themed festivals and other activities that support local pride of place, bring people into town centres and encourage residents and visitors to shop locally.

The scheme is supported by Norfolk County Council and district councils. Further details, examples of successful projects and information about how to apply are available [here](#).

Initial ideas must be submitted by 31 August 2026.

Trial of new pothole repair machine

Norfolk County Council will trial an innovative pothole repair machine as part of ongoing work to improve road maintenance and keep Norfolk's highways in the best possible condition. The trial will take place during the first week of September on planned repairs in South Norfolk. The machine and operator are being provided at no cost to the Council for this short trial. If this short trial is successful, a longer-term trial will be arranged.

Potholes and road maintenance: new government reporting requirements

Dept. for Transport has [announced new rules](#) requiring councils to show how they are fixing potholes, future-proofing roads and investing in longer-term preventative maintenance.

The new requirements shift reporting from describing activity to proving outcomes and value for money, with compliance now linked to funding. Reports must set out planned and delivered works, how highways funding is being used, and action to reduce repeat repairs. The new reports will be published next month and will inform eligibility for Government highways incentive funding and the next red, amber and green road maintenance ratings.

Norfolk was rated amber in 2025/26, alongside most local highway authorities.

[Norfolk's highways maintenance transparency report 2025/26](#) highlights the scale of the county's network, including nearly 10,000km of roads, and its focus on preventative maintenance, early intervention and whole-life costing.

Given local interest in potholes, we as Councillors can help by encouraging residents to report potholes and road defects through the Norfolk County Council website, so they are logged, assessed and prioritised through the proper highways process. The reporting form can be found on the Council website.

Norfolk County Council submits judicial review of LGR proposals

A judicial review has been submitted by the Reform leading administration in response to the proposed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme in Norfolk.

The submission of a judicial review represents an early stage in the legal process. The court will consider whether the case should be granted permission to proceed. If so, the case would move to a substantive hearing where the lawfulness of the Government's decision-making process will be examined.

Fire & Rescue Service continuing to respond to high summer demand

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service is continuing to raise public awareness around the threat of wildfires this summer, with more hot and dry weather in Norfolk.

Demand has been especially high on Norfolk's firefighters this summer, with 1,270 emergencies attended in July. Resources continue to be stretched, and activity levels are commensurate with 2022.

The Service has shared posters with parish councils across the county with advice on how to prevent outdoor fires and worked with Norfolk Trails and the Norfolk Resilience Forum to produce signage on the county's trail posts on what to do in the event of fire. You can request these via norfolkresilienceforum@norfolk.gov.uk.

Norfolk County Council urge residents as far as possible to safely dispose of rubbish and cigarettes, glass bottles and not to use disposable barbecues.

Changes to fridge and freezer collections due to national capacity issues

A national shortage of specialist recycling and treatment capacity is affecting fridge and freezer collections across the UK. From Thursday 6 August, Norfolk County Council will only accept unwanted fridges, freezers and other cooling appliances at the county's largest recycling centres. Hillside at Pretty Corner is not one. Full details of the affected sites and what is accepted are available on the council's website: [Changes to fridge and freezer collections at Norfolk's recycling centres](#).

Where possible, residents are asked to:

- Use retailer take-back or recycling services when buying a replacement appliance.
- Keep using appliances that remain safe and in working order.
- Consider reuse, repair or donation options for working appliances.
- Delay disposal, where safe and practical, until national treatment capacity improves.

Residents should only take fridges, freezers and other cooling appliances for disposal only if its absolutely necessary. If safe to do so, they are encouraged to hold on to unwanted appliances temporarily to help ease pressure on the national system.

Dennis Bacon named as preferred appointment for chief executive

Following a recruitment process that began early last month, Norfolk County Council has announced Dennis Bacon as its preferred appointment for chief executive.

The appointment is subject to normal pre-employment checks and approval by full council. The meeting to consider the appointment will take place at County Hall on Friday 14 August.

Thank you for reading this report.

CLLR ANDREW BROWN

andrew.brown.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

07970 298695

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