

Local Government Reform

NNDC Cllrs meet on September 24th to vote on the new structure for local government proposed by NNDC. This for three Unitaries (which are district and county councils combined)- East, West and Greater Norwich. North Norfolk will be in the East. Each of these Unitaries will be about 300k residents. There will be costs associated with the change, but savings are forecast for the future. The advantages of three Unitaries over one or two (one is the County Council's and two South Norfolk's proposals) are more focus on people and place and the uniqueness of each area. There will be better Democratic representation with one Unitary (though it won't be as good as it is now with about half as many Cllrs). Against all this, is the need to split up the statutory services currently provided by County into three Unitaries - these are Adult and Children's services, education, special needs etc - and how viable this will be. Details on the proposal can be found at <https://www.futurenorfolk.com>. If anyone has strong views, please do get in touch with me as I'm looking for a community steer!

The Government will then decide which model they prefer out of the one, two and three Unitaries.

New local plan

You have till Wednesday to submit your comments on the last stage of the consultation for the new Local Plan which will determine our planning policies till 2040. The webpage for comments is <https://northnorfolk-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/>

The most relevant changes for us are the new site allocation in Blakeney to the west of the Langham Road and the inclusion of Weybourne as a growth village.

Pharmabox

I've asked again about how we can make it easier for people with bulky prescriptions to get their meds, given the Pharmabox can only cope with packages up to a certain size. The practice says it's not possible to split meds into more than one package. There aren't enough slots and they are at capacity already.

However, they have agreed that residents who are struggling physically to use the box, and also struggle to get to Kelling, may be eligible for home delivery – as even if not clinically housebound, these residents may fall into their most vulnerable category.

If you're in this group, you can fill in an online form summarising why you are finding it difficult to use the Box and what alternative would help the most; or you can call Reception and leave a message for Amy Pardon explaining the difficulties you are having using the Box – and Amy will return your call to discuss.

They have asked if possible to wait to call the practice until the end of September as the flu and covid campaign is about to kick off and there may be delays in answering the phones.

5G

I've been trying to find out why mobile connectivity is so much poorer recently. Apparently, it's due to the 3G switch off as 4G is limited in capacity and can't take the volume of calls. Vodafone have told me - and I need to find out whether it's the same for other providers - we need to wait for 5G which is due 28/29! This is too far in the future. Vodafone also tell me they are planning a satellite based Service to be rolled out in 26/27 which 'will eliminate the majority of remaining mobile not spots across the UK.' I need to find out more about this. It'll be interesting to see if 4G connectivity improves now there are fewer visitors around.

Emergency Ambulance Response Times

We met with the Ambulance Trust to discuss emergency ambulance response times. At a high level, it appears that NR23 times are improved (probably due to the cycle paramedic in Wells) but NR25 haven't. It sounds as if we're keeping the cycle paramedic in Wells but we need to look in more details as to what's happening in NR25. Community First Responder numbers are up which is brilliant as these dedicated volunteers are an absolute necessity.

Commercial Food Waste Collection

Commercial food waste collection began in August. The food will be anaerobically digested, producing natural gas which feed# into the grid and a nutrient rich fertiliser as a by product. Domestic food waste collections will begin 2026.

Street Trading policy review

NNDC is consulting on street trading licences which inform where you can and can't sell on streets in North Norfolk. Check out the NNDC website to find more or click on <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/news/2025/july/street-trading-policy-review-opens/>