

Notes from Town and Parish Council Forum (South Norfolk/Broadland) 22 January 2021

It was an update meeting from the joint South Norfolk/Broadland council teams to all towns and parish councils in their combined area. The meeting was deemed to be useful and the plan is to hold one on a quarterly basis going forward.

The merger of the back office operations for South Norfolk and Broadland are progressing – single teams in place, everyone is on common terms and conditions, will be moving to a single website soon.

Covid Update

South Norfolk and Broadland have tracked a similar path as the rest of Norfolk in terms of cases (slightly below national figures). Currently both are coming down from second peak – Broadland currently has more cases than South Norfolk but this is driven by more care home cases.

70% of help being provided during the crisis (delivering food/prescriptions etc.) is coming from local groups in the community (a strong message of thanks given from the district council leaders).

8000 residents in South Norfolk have contacted the central Help Hub.

A team of 21 Covid Support advisors was set up towards the end of last year – targeted at helping areas based on local intelligence and case rates. They helped to deal with the spike in Wymondham last year. Since Jan 7 2021 they have been targeted at enhancing the test and trace system by visiting people who the central system has failed to contact. They have already visited over 600 households and contacted over 1100 people. They can ensure people who do need to self-isolate get the appropriate support including financial help from the council if appropriate.

Councils are working closely with Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Working in the community to enable people to be able to come out of hospital sooner (thus freeing up beds) and also a large number of council staff have volunteered to work in the hospital to help with current pressures.

Waste Disposal Update

Significant change in the makeup of waste during the pandemic

Cardboard waste has increased by more than 100% (called the Amazon effect). Cardboard waste is sold and thus this has raised money.

There has been an increased in food waste.

Glass waste has increased by about 37% (the alcohol effect) - unfortunately due to a lack of demand for recycled glass this costs the money to dispose.

Fly-tipping has increased during lockdown, albeit not by as much as in other parts of the country and it was worse during the first lockdown when re-cycling centres were closed. The district council will come and remove any fly-tipping from public land but the landowner is responsible for clearing up private property.

Currently South Norfolk recycle 42.5% of waste (Broadland do nearer 50%). The target is to get to 60% by 2023.

There was a request to remind people for the recycling rules which can be found on the South Norfolk website. It was also stated that people can ask for larger recycling bins if they want.

It was noted that district council collect the waste but the county council disposes of it (i.e. Norfolk County Council run the recycling sites/council tips).

There are government plans to introduce further rules on recycling which will mean councils have to

- Collect food waste separately for recycling
- Collect green waste for free
- Shops have to take back any used small electrical items they have sold and are then responsible for recycling them.

Finance

The calculations for working out the number of households in a parish is calculated for precepts. Basically it involves taking the total number of houses, reducing the number for various reasons (e.g. properties that don't pay council tax) and adding on some more for a smaller number of reasons (e.g. expected growth). (I'll circulate the slides which has more detail).

The smallest parish in South Norfolk is Holveston (13 properties) and the largest is Wymondham (5879 properties).

Greater Anglia Local Plan

The new plan, which looks at housing and economic needs and covers 2018-2038, is going to its next stage of consultation in February/March. There is a GNLP website with the details.

High level figures quoted were:

- Another 49500 houses are required by 2038
- The existing plans cover most of this requirement, so only looking for an additional 9254 at the moment

Some concern raised from people in Acle and Aylsham re the latest proposals.

Aiming for the plan to be adopted by September 2022.

Elections

Elections will be held on May 6th (unless government changes plan).

These are for:

- Police and Crime Commissioner
- County Council
- Some parish by-elections
- Neighbourhood plans

Verification of votes and counting will be done at the Showground on May 7th.