

Ringland Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 19 May 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Parish Council	Nick Adams	(Chairman)
	Lindy Cooper	(Vice-Chair)
	Keith Stone	
	Malcolm Turner	
	Simon Addington	
	Jill Baker	(present for part of meeting)
	Kay Montandon	(Clerk)
Norfolk County Councillor	Greg Peck	
Broadland District Councillor	Peter Bulman	(present for part of meeting)

Plus 5 members of the public for whole meeting and 7 for last part of the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Margaret George – Parish Council

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13 May 2024

These were agreed as a true record of proceedings with no amendments.

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Nick read his report and thanks were expressed to those attending and explained that the Annual Parish Meeting is an annual meeting that must take place between March and June, and informed the attendees that the Annual Parish Meeting followed this meeting. Nick notified the meeting of his intention to resign as Chair and Councillor following this meeting after serving 6 years as Chair. Nick also introduced Kay Montandon as the new Clerk and RFO to the Parish. See report attached.

4. Report from Norfolk County Councillor

Greg read a summary of his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting and gave a general update.

See report attached.

The Chair thanked the County Councillor for all his support over the years.

5. Reports from District Councillor

Peter made his report on the District Council. No increase in council tax from the District. Peter explained the different options for Local Government Reorganisation and assured the Parish that Broadland District Council will maintain all services right up until the District Council ceases to exist. Peter explained he is still in conflict with planners about the Lenwade garage development amongst others.

A member of the public requested clarification on Nutrient Neutrality issues and Peter explained that the Council is aiming to offset the nutrients from development with projects including the septic tank replacement project.

There was a discussion about the opposition to some developments by Natural England and how this would affect future land use.

Greg Peck outlined the issue of solar farm developments in the area and these were discussed in brief.

The Chair thanked the District Councillor for all his support over the years.

6. Reports from village groups, charities and other organisations

The Chair read a report from the VE Day celebration organisers. (Attached)

7. Questions from parishioners on local issues:

Parishioners raised the following issues:

- The road markings around Ringland have not been implemented as requested. In particular, double yellow lines to prevent unsafe parking were considered an issue, and lines near bridge to prevent parking around there when the pub is reopened. The County Councillor will follow up with the highways engineer.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Chairman's signature

Date

Introduction

Good Evening, and many thanks for taking the time to attend tonight's Annual Parish Meeting. This is not a Parish Council Meeting but a meeting of the parish electors and it must be held between 1st March and 1st June to comply with legislation. Ringland parishioners entitled to vote in local elections can contribute to the agenda, the purpose of the meeting being to discuss parish affairs. A simple agenda has already been produced however items for inclusion can be added tonight when we get to agenda item 7. Once we have taken all suggestions for subjects to be discussed we will work through them in the order recorded by the Parish Clerk. If any items require a vote of those present then all parishioners entitled to vote in a local election can do so.

This meeting will be followed immediately by our regular parish council meeting and you will see that the members of the parish council are sat amongst you for this annual PARISH meeting. Can I quickly introduce my vice chairman Lindy Cooper and councillors Malcolm Turner, Jill Baker, Keith Stone and Simon Addington. Margaret George is on a well-deserved holiday and has offered her apologies. The councillors are all attending this meeting as members of the public, but I will of course refer to any of them and maybe ask them to address the meeting if any of the matters discussed are areas in which they specialise as a councillor. As a council we are permitted to have a total of seven members, so we currently have a full house, which is wonderful! That said, I have already announced my intention to stand down as Chairman and a member of the council and will be doing so during the Annual Parish Council meeting which immediately follows this meeting, so a vacancy will be created. If a full council role does not appeal we are always more than happy to welcome anyone who cares for the village's future to get involved with the council in a voluntary role either assisting the councillors where necessary or maybe getting involved in some of the essential tasks we have to perform around the parish. If you are interested in helping the council please let the clerk know at the end of the meeting or whenever it suits you and she can discuss how you might be able to contribute.

While this meeting gives everyone a good opportunity to raise issues and to open discussions I would like to say that your attendance at the regular Parish Council Meetings is still greatly appreciated and offers the best way to both communicate with the council and keep up to date with progress on the various issues the council is dealing with.

Chairmans Report

2024 was a relatively uneventful year here in Ringland and village life continued in it's normal quiet pattern, with very little in the way of major changes to report. As a result yet again many of the items reported on in this annual report may sound very similar to the comments I made last year, so please accept my apologies if you get a strong sense of Deja-vu whilst listening to me. That sentence alone should be enough to give you Deja-vu as it's unchanged from last years report and indeed the year before that!

Probably the biggest and most welcome piece of village news was the purchase of the Swan Pub by the Colchester Inns group, a very successful and highly regarded local operator with a number of very popular pubs in it's portfolio. Once the Parish Council were aware that a serious bid had been made to purchase the pub and re-open it the decision was made to withdraw the Asset of Community Value Order to allow the purchase to go ahead. Matthew and Nicola Colchester have subsequently invested heavily in the re-furbishment of the pub which will re-open tomorrow at 10am! I have spoken with them on a couple of occasions and I am convinced that, while they are of course business people and need to carefully control their bottom line, they also care greatly about the village and will guide the Swan back to a place where it can once again become a focus for local social life. I believe that the contact and support offered by the Parish Council to date has been appreciated by the Colchesters and I look forward to seeing the Parish Council and the Pub working together to a mutual benefit in the future.

The development of 5 holiday lodges on the land behind the pub has stalled and the company developing the site has been taken into receivership. We are not aware of any further developments at present but are sure that the receivers will be investigating how to achieve the best financial return on the sale of the site. It seems likely that it will be sold as a project and that at some stage work to complete the development will recommence. The council has previously raised a number of compliance matters relating to this development with Broadland planning and will continue to monitor the development as it progresses.

Two of the three local major infra-structure projects in the locality of the village continue to make progress. These are of course the conversion of the local A47 to dual carriageway and the various projects to run underground power cables from the new Wind Farms off the North Norfolk coast to the Transformer Complex near Dunstan Hall. The third project, the Norwich Western Link road between the A1067 and the A47 has hit a major issue and has been put on hold pending further investigations.

Dealing with the NWL first, it had reached the stage where a formal planning application had been made and was under review when an unexpected change of policy by Natural England altered the conservation status of the Barbastelle Bat, a large nesting colony of which exists close to the proposed route of the road. This made it impossible for the road project to proceed as its impact on the Bats was considered unacceptable under the new guidelines. Norfolk County Council then withdrew the planning application, explaining that it was not possible for them to open discussions on the necessary changes with Natural England while the application was live. Subsequent reviews have failed to find a suitable solution and currently the entire project is stalled while further options are considered by NCC. It is impossible to be certain but it seems unlikely that an alternative route for a dual carriageway connection will be the solution as the concentration of Barbastelle bats across the whole of the Wensum valley precludes any such crossing as long as the current conservation status of the bats is maintained. A more plausible solution is likely to be small scale improvements to the local road network to improve traffic flow and reduce bottlenecks, but it is hard to see how this will successfully deal with even the current traffic volumes, let alone increases that will be the inevitable consequence of the planned residential and industrial developments in the area. It should be noted that all of these planned developments are currently still going ahead despite the loss of the NWL, even though in many instances the proposed road was a key factor in the developments being granted approval in the first place.

The project to upgrade the A47 between Easton and North Tuddenham to dual carriageway finally moved into the physical construction phase after a number of appeals which had substantially delayed the project were overturned or withdrawn. As you will no doubt have seen the construction work is progressing at an impressive rate and although we were made well aware of the extent of the changes involved it was still quite alarming to see the early stages of the land clearance taking place. One positive element of the various delays to the start of the programme was the additional time this gave the planning team to anticipate and mitigate issues and it is currently looking as though the project will now run on time to a scheduled completion in the Summer of 2027.

The main impact the A47 project will have on Ringland will be the changes in traffic flow along the local roads as a consequence of the removal of the roundabout at Easton and the creation of a new grade-separated junction (like the junction at Sainsburys) at the junction with Taverham Road. The temporary closure of Honingham Lane, which runs from the crossroads by Merryhills Country Park to St. Peters Church and which the parish council requested to protect the village from a large increase in traffic remains within the DCO and we have been re-assured that it will be closed before the Easton roundabout is removed towards the end of the project. This closure was originally perceived

as a temporary measure that would be reversed once the NWL was opened. Now that the NWL project has stalled it seems likely that the closure may have to become permanent, if this were to happen then NCC would have to agree to accept responsibility for the permanent closure. Initial discussions with NCC have indicated that this will happen, but this will need to be closely monitored in the coming months, especially in the event of a “small roads” solution to the replacement of the NWL being taken as the way forward. If we are not very careful we could still see Ringland becoming blighted with through traffic in the same way as Costessey and Weston Longville are already. The A47 project is now included in the regular Local Liaison Group meetings where it is reviewed by representatives of Norfolk County Council, National Highways and local parish councils including Ringland. I am happy to continue to represent RPC at these meetings if the council would like me to.

The changes to the NWL project have also removed our opportunity to seek the implementation of a 20mph speed limit throughout the village and for a ban on vehicles over 7.5 tonnes through the village. Currently there appears to be no chance of getting such restrictions in place, although if traffic volumes do increase significantly then we may be able to build a case for some level of restriction in the future

The Sheringham and Dudgeon power cable projects have started with significant earthworks appearing all around the boundaries of the parish to the west and south. Although quite startling in terms of their size and apparent permanence they are likely to have only a small impact on the village directly, not least as it has been agreed that all road crossings will be done using a horizontal drilling technique which will minimise the disruption of traffic on the roads. Promises made by the contractors to not send any construction traffic through the village have been broken and we now seeing a number of large cable transporters coming along Ringland Lane and up Weston Lane to the cable crossing near Black Breck Cottages. The chaotic manner in which the easily predicted necessary changes to the overhead cable network to allow these vehicles through has been implemented is extremely disappointing and yet another example of how badly this project appears to be being managed. The parish council will continue to watch closely for any other failures to meet with their original promises.

Over the past year the Parish Council have continued reviewing and improving our procedures and compliance with new and emerging regulations. Whilst this will remain an on-going process it has identified a number of areas where action was needed and this has been taken or is in progress, under the ever watchful eye of our new Parish Clerk, Kay Montanden

The village hall working group led by Councillor Margaret George has been active in improving the facilities within the Hall and are now starting to see an

increase in the income generated by rental. The team are to be congratulated and thanked for their efforts, with the successful Xmas and excellent VE day celebrations being great examples of what they can do. Sadly however the hall continues to cost the village much more than it earns and we have to continue to try and reverse this situation if we are to avoid further increases in the precept. In the longer term we are starting to consider further improvements to the parking area of the hall.

The various areas of common land that we administer on behalf of the village continue to require a suprisingly large amount of attention to ensure that we are meeting the demands of DEFRA and the Rural Payments Agency who give us a grant in return for maintaining the commons. Work is progressing with the development of a plan for the maintenance and control of the commons to both improve the ecology of the area and minimise the financial burden on the village. It is likely that implementation of this plan will require a fairly considerable capital outlay on fencing, gates and other infrastructure, some of which may be subject to various grants. This, together with the formation of a committee of those who graze animals on the common has been the focus of Lindy and Simons efforts over the past year and I thank them for all they have done.

Councillor Malcolm Turner successfully led the work to improve the facility for car parking on the Church Mound. The work was completed around this time last year and it has had a very positive impact of the appearance and safety of the Church Mound . It would be nice to see the grass are of the mound being improved in the near future with various indigenous wildflowers and the like and I believe that this is something the council will be considering. A welcome by-product of the car park works was the opportunity to put in a water supply to the church, once again ably managed by Malcolm with financial support from the church and the Parish council.

Increases in the Annual Precept over the past few years have allowed us to bring the budget much closer to breaking even than on the past, while successful use of local government grant processes have allowed us to reclaim some of the costs associated with the improvements made around the village. The council continues to work to increasing income from other sources as well as looking for further savings on expenditure although it must be noted that with ever less volunteers coming forward from the Parish we are increasingly having to use the services of professional contractors and this adds considerably to the Parishes running costs. As an example, recent work we were legally compelled to arrange to remove a couple of dangerous trees near to the road over the Ringland Hills cost in the region of £700 and we have a lot of trees in this Parish....As a consequence of this and anticipated future projects including improving the car parking surface around the village hall we have decided to increase the precept by 4.9%, which equates to an increase

of £4.72 annually for a band D property.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this annual summary I have decided that after six years in the role I am going to stand down as both Chair and a member of the Parish council in order to be able to give myself a little more time to do the things that I want to do. I'm proud of what we have achieved as a council over the past few years and I am confident that the council will continue to fight for the best interests of not just our village, but all the communities in our locality. While no longer a member of the council I will of course do my best to support its activities as best I can.

Finally, I am delighted to introduce those of you who have not attended a parish meeting recently to our new professional parish clerk, Kay Montanden, who started with us just after Xmas. Kay should be your first point of contact if you have any need to speak to the Parish Council; her contact details are on all Parish Communications, the parish council noticeboards, facebook and the website.

Many Thanks for your attention.

Annual Parish Report 2024- 25 Cllr Greg Peck, NCC

Council Delivers Balanced Budget and calls for cost-saving local government reorganisation

Norfolk County Council has approved a balanced budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year, despite facing considerable financial challenges.

Key Details from the Norfolk County Council Budget:

- **Gross Budget:** The council has a gross expenditure budget of £2.2 billion (£1.7 billion excluding schools). This includes:
 - £700 million for Adult Social Care
 - £367 million for Children's Services (non-schools)
 - £283 million for Infrastructure
 - £44 million for Communities and Environment
 - £46 million for Fire Services

Net Budget: The net budget for 2025/26 is £572 million. This represents the amount raised through Council Tax to fund the services provided by the council.

- **Budget Growth:** The 2025/26 budget includes an increase of £121 million, which covers:
 - £31 million for inflationary pressures
 - £35 million for legislative pressures (including the increase in the National Living Wage and higher Employers National Insurance contributions)
 - £15 million for demand and demographic pressures
 - Over £25 million to cover recurrent overspends from Adult and Children's Services in 2024/25.
- **Funding and Savings:** While costs have risen by £121 million, funding has only increased by £32 million. The Government has eliminated the Rural Services Delivery Grant and reallocated funds from rural to metropolitan areas. To balance the budget, savings of £45 million will be implemented.
- **Council Tax:** For 2025/26, Council Tax will increase by 4.99%, which includes a 3% rise for general Council Tax and a 2% increase for the Adult Social Care precept. A Band D household will pay £1,755.63 per year, or around £34 per week, for County Council services in 2025/26.

Norfolk announced as priority area for new powers and funding

Norfolk is set to gain new powers and funding following a significant Government announcement on 5th February 2025. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner revealed that Norfolk would be a priority area for devolution and local government reform. As part of this, the Government is seeking to create a devolution deal for Norfolk and Suffolk, which would include the introduction of an elected mayor.

In addition, there are plans to reshape local government in Norfolk. The Government intends to replace the current two-tier structure, where services are shared between county and district councils, with unitary authorities. This would centralize decision-making and service

delivery into a single authority, streamlining local government processes and potentially increasing efficiency and saving taxpayers money.

These changes will empower local areas with more control over their services and funding. For further details on the progress of devolution and the impact of these reforms, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution, where you can also find answers to frequently asked questions from the Local Government Association. To watch an informative video [go to our video explaining devolution and local government reform](#).

Norfolk signs historic agreement with Ukrainian region of Lviv

A cooperation agreement has been signed between Norfolk County Council and the Ukrainian region of Lviv which is designed to explore knowledge transfer, educational exchange and trade opportunities.

The historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Thursday 2 May at the Ukrainian Embassy in London by Leader of Norfolk County Council Kay Mason Billig and in Lviv via video link by Maksym Kozytskyi, Head of the Lviv Regional Military Administration. It is the first such agreement to be signed with Lviv by any part of the UK.

Cllr Mason Billig was joined at the ceremony by Liz Truss MP, as the MP for South West Norfolk, Cllr Fabian Eagle Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Cllr Chris Dawson, Rural Champion, Chris Starkie, Director of Growth and Investment, and Roberta Willner, Head of Economic Development. Also there to witness the signing of the agreement was Nataliya Klymko, Programmes Coordinator for Growth and Investment.

Both Norwich and Lviv have links to UNESCO: Norwich is a UNESCO City of Literature, and the historic part of Lviv city (300-acre historic centre) is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. In 2022, Lviv was granted Freedom of the City of Norwich in solidarity with Ukraine, and the MoU - similar to a twinning arrangement - will further celebrate and build on these links.

Norfolk and Lviv have identified several key opportunities for collaborative working, including the TechBridge programme, a strategic partnership between the UK Government, Ukraine Ministry of Digital Transformation and Ukraine Ministry of Foreign Affairs to forge connections between our tech ecosystems.

This partnership currently runs to 2025 but may be extended, providing businesses in both locations access to expert advice and support in navigating the barriers to UK-Ukraine trade. There are also specialist investment accelerator programmes for Ukraine tech SMEs looking to expand overseas.

The skills and knowledge the local Lviv tech sector offers are recognised on the international level. For example, Lviv IT specialists developed the Skype app and special effects for films such as Harry Potter and Spider-Man. Norfolk also has a strong growing ICT/Digital sector with several individual clusters, and the MoU will encourage collaboration within the sector between our regions by participating in mutual events of interest.

This not only benefits cluster growth in a key sector for Norwich and Norfolk's digital services and would benefit Lviv through the contribution to the recovery efforts.

Other opportunities for collaboration include an incoming visit to the Theatre Royal Norwich in October by the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine, led by leading conductor, Theodore Kuchar.

Norfolk County Council opposes National Grid pylon scheme

Councillors in Norfolk have objected to a National Grid proposal to construct an electricity transmission line across the county.

National Grid has launched a statutory consultation on plans for an 114 mile overhead power line between Norwich in Norfolk, Bramford in Suffolk and Tilbury in Essex.

In non-statutory consultations, Norfolk County Council has urged National Grid to reconsider the scheme, but the project will be determined by the secretary of state for energy security and net zero as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

Norfolk County Council's planning and highways delegations committee have agreed to object to the proposal, arguing that alternative options, including an offshore or underground scheme, had not been adequately considered.

At a recent full council meeting, councillors backed a motion expressing concerns over the proposals.

That motion called for Kay Mason Billig, leader of the council to write to National Grid with several requests, including further consideration of an offshore alternative and of putting more of the power line underground.

Norfolk set to receive highest highways maintenance allocation in the region

Norfolk is set to receive more than £56 million for highways maintenance this year.

Funding for every local authority across England today can be used throughout 2025/6 on the roads are in most need of repair, and to deliver immediate fixes for communities across Norfolk.

This comes just a few weeks after Norfolk took the top spot for the second year in a row in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) survey on roads and transport. People from across the county gave Norfolk the highest (above average) score in satisfaction with the condition of the highways.

More than 5,300 potholes have been fixed across Norfolk since April this year and of those 99% were repaired by our contractors within the agreed response times. If you see a pothole - don't assume someone else has reported it. Let us know by completing our online form: www.norfolk.gov.uk/potholes

Norfolk's highways set for major investment in the year ahead

This month Norfolk County Council Cabinet has reviewed a series of investments and improvements to the county's highways infrastructure.

Documents reveal how 97 parishes, from Antingham to Worstead, will benefit from projects funded through the Council's Parish Partnership scheme. The 2025/26 programme is designed to deliver what local communities have requested, including trods, village gateways, bus shelters, and vehicle-activated signs.

The programme is jointly funded by Norfolk County Council and contributions from Town and Parish Councils. This year, Norfolk County Council plans to contribute £425,476, enabling a total investment of £848,702 for local projects.

The Cabinet has also reviewed the highways capital programme, which highlights successes from the previous year and outlines how highways maintenance funding will be allocated for the coming 12 months. This includes an additional £15 million from the Department for Transport (DfT).

With this extra funding, an additional 100 miles of roads in Norfolk will be resurfaced this year, supporting the Council's proactive approach to highway maintenance that helps prevent potholes. The funding will also provide additional resources for local repairs and patching across the county.

Norfolk County Council committed over £1m to keep people warm last winter

Proposals to support some of Norfolk's most vulnerable people this winter have been set out today.

Norfolk County Council is looking to use £1.15m of the £6.7m allocated to the county through the Household Support Fund to keep people warm and help them make ends meet.

The county council will use £0.75m to partner with local organisations, including Age UK and Citizens Advice Bureau, to reach some of those most affected by the changes to the Winter Fuel Payments. They will also put £400k into the 'warm spaces' scheme which provides vital respite in community spaces across the county.

The proposals also include £3.6m to continue providing cost-of-living vouchers for families eligible for means tested free school meals. This is in addition to:

- £1.00m to Norfolk Assistance Scheme. Delivered by the Norfolk County Council, the scheme includes direct award of assistance, the provision of household items and emergency help, alongside a range of support and guidance
- £0.70m to local councils across Norfolk to provide proactive and crisis support
- £0.25m to Adult Learning to continue free access to a range of courses to help with cooking at home, budgeting, and digital skills.

New strategy puts Norfolk at the forefront of the UK economy

Ambitious plans for Norfolk's economy have been unveiled in a new strategy to be presented to the county council's cabinet in November.

The strategy seeks to build on Norfolk's influence in key sectors, including clean energy, agri-tech and cutting-edge research.

Norfolk's Economic Strategy, also known as a Local Growth Plan, sets out an overview of the local economy and key priority areas for economic growth.

Norfolk is already at the forefront of some of the UK's most strategically important sectors.

Norfolk is a global leader for offshore wind with £39bn of clean energy investment forecasted over the next 20 years. In Great Yarmouth, the new Operations and Maintenance Campus is expected to create 650 new jobs and new commercial space for the offshore renewable energy sector. This £24.8m partnership project is a collaboration with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, with enabling works well underway.

Work is also underway to examine how to decarbonise the gas supply through the development of a 'Bacton Energy Hub', reusing existing North Sea assets for carbon storage, and blue/green hydrogen production.

The local Agri-Food and Agri-Tech economy puts Norfolk at the epicentre of addressing challenges around food security and climate change. Norwich Research Park is a world-leading research base at the forefront of global food and health research. It is Europe's largest single site hub of research, training, education, and enterprise in food and health.

Norfolk is already well known for a visitor economy which accounts for nearly 20% of all employment. The county was recently successful in bidding to become a Local Visitor Economy Partnership, alongside Visit East of England and Suffolk County Council. This put

them on an even footing with the likes of Cornwall, the Peak District, and the Cotswolds who have the same level of Visit England accreditation.

Major infrastructure projects continue to transform how residents and businesses get around. The completion of the Herring Bridge and the start of construction on the long-awaited Long Stratton Bypass will bring a major boost for the local economy. Norfolk has also seen year-on-year growth in bus passenger numbers and the introduction of a major electric bus fleet. The county council continues to push for improvements along the A47, with an ongoing campaign to improve connectivity and safety through further dualling in key areas.

Norfolk has built an increasingly enterprising culture, supporting residents to start up their own business, and for new start-ups to survive and thrive. Norfolk has a better than UK average for survival of new businesses at 63% after 3 years, compared to the UK average of 56%.

New Anglia Growth Hub acts as the 'front door' for local businesses looking for support. Over the past 10 years, the Growth Hub has supported over 14,000 businesses with free, impartial support and advice.

Norfolk street lighting goes green

Norfolk is leading the way in energy efficiency with the successful completion of its street lighting upgrade project, finishing almost a year ahead of schedule. This major initiative will cut CO2 emissions by over 200 tonnes annually, helping the county make significant strides toward a greener, more sustainable future.

The upgrade, carried out by Amey on behalf of Norfolk County Council, involved replacing 16,800 traditional High-Intensity Discharge (HID) lights with 15,531 state-of-the-art LED lanterns. This transition, which began in August 2023, will ensure that, starting in November 2024, 100% of Norfolk County Council's street lighting will use low-energy LEDs.

The final phase of this project will save approximately 1,099,032 kWh of energy each year, translating to an estimated £380,000 in savings based on current electricity prices.

Since the first LED streetlights were installed in 2008, the county has saved around 71 million kWh of energy, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by over 22,200 tonnes, equivalent to the carbon savings of 6.7 million litres of diesel. This project marks another significant achievement in Norfolk's ongoing commitment to reducing its environmental impact and promoting energy sustainability.

Working Well Norfolk helping people with long-term health issues to keep working

A scheme to support people in Norfolk with long-term health issues get back into employment or continue in their jobs has already helped more than 1,100 participants.

The Working Well Norfolk programme, launched in October 2023, supports individuals with long-term health issues to return to or stay in work. It has already helped over 1,100 participants, with 200 moving into work and 150 staying employed despite health challenges. The programme has received 1,600 referrals and will continue for another 18 months, with additional funding to help 730 more people, totalling 1,830 participants by September 2026. The £5.2m project is managed by Norfolk County Council and delivered by Seetec Pluss and Standguide Ltd. For more info or to refer, visit [Working Well Norfolk - Seetec Pluss](#) or call 01603 561054.

Discover the Best of Norfolk: Explore 1,500 Miles of Scenic Trails for Walking, Cycling, and Horse-Riding

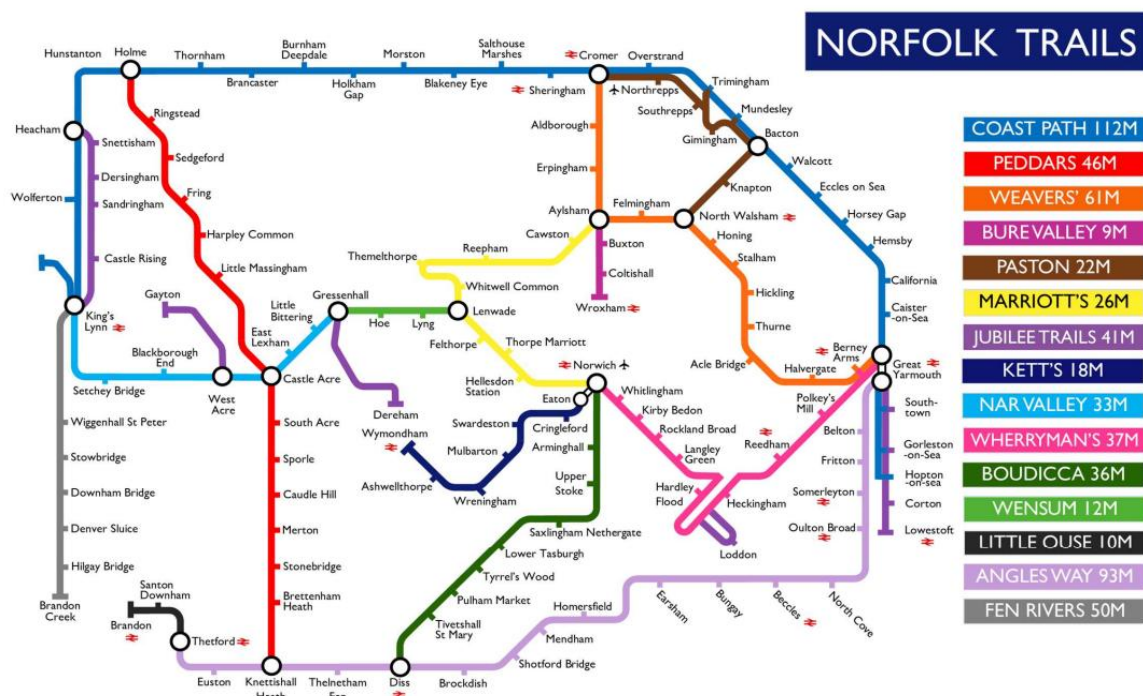
Norfolk offers over 1,500 miles of beautiful walking, cycling, and horse-riding routes, each showcasing the county's unique nature and rich cultural heritage. Whether you're exploring tranquil river valleys, historic landscapes, or scenic coastal paths, Norfolk's trails offer something for every adventurer.

Highlights include the **Angles Way**, a 93-mile walking route through woodlands and heathland, and the **Boudicca Way**, a 36-mile journey through ancient Roman and Iceni

heritage sites. For those seeking to explore the Broads, the **Bure Valley Path** offers a 9-mile route along a heritage railway. History buffs will enjoy the **Kett's Country Trail**, which follows the story of Kett's Rebellion, while the **Peddars Way** takes you along an ancient Roman road. Other stunning routes include the **Norfolk Coast Path** (a 112-mile National Trail), the **Marriott's Way** (26 miles of scenic walking, cycling, and horse-riding), and the **Wherryman's Way**, a 40-mile trek through the beautiful Broads National Park.

Whether you're interested in history, nature, or simply exploring the countryside, Norfolk's extensive network of trails provides the perfect way to experience this beautiful region.

For more information please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/42852/Norfolk-Trails



VE Day Celebrations Ringland Village

This is little report about the VE Day celebrations. We had a tea party with some history of the area during the day. The refreshments were from that era and working on what people had at the VE Day parties from 1945. I believe everyone enjoyed themselves and a lot of people joined us to chat.

Some popped in and went but others stayed through the whole event. We did not charge for the event as we had received the lovely grant of £200 from Broadland District Council. It was really nice to just have a lovely time together and enjoy the event.

We did have some very lovely people donate £30 to the village hall for holding the event. At the event we had all ages sitting together enjoying themselves, with some familiar faces and some new which was very nice. Here are pictures from the event.

Louise George











