

**WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER MEETING 2023
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Officers from South Norfolk Council are in discussion with town councils across the district to roll out and replicate the pilot Visit Harleston tourism website. This should help create a better coordinated tourism promotion. One of the items under consideration is Harleston's association with the Mayflower ship and Pilgrim Fathers. This offers a marketing opportunity. Many towns base their tourism on lessor claims than providing four passengers on the ship. Is there an opportunity to work with Harleston Town Council to tempt visitors to come to Wortwell?

During the last 50 years the Harold Dean Charitable Trust has occupied the majority of 'The Ocean' lake on the outskirts of Harleston through an informal agreement with the owners. The site has been managed for quiet recreation, notably fishing and sailing. It is also an excellent site for wildlife. The owners wish to sell the land and the Trust wish to buy it, to continue and enhance their nature conservation work. I have given my support to their ambition.

Work continues to expand our local nature recovery concept across the district. I have spoken with representatives from both Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils and the senior advisor from Natural England responsible for preparing the Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Discussions are underway to consider the 'Nature Recovery in Harleston' concept as the bottom-up element for inclusion in the overall Strategies. Needham Parish Council voted to set up 'Nature Recovery in Needham' in their September meeting. The support of Wortwell Parish Council can make an even bigger statement as our entire Ward could establish Nature Recovery without boundaries.

Ian Carstairs, Nigel Tuffnell and I, as residents, will be giving short presentations about the work in Harleston at a nature recovery event in York later this month. We will then host a local event at St John's Church in Harleston on 21 October to explain what has been achieved and what is planned. We will be inviting representatives from nearby towns and parishes.

Local nature recovery and the tourism website are two ways in which our Harleston Ward is leading the way.

Wortwell Parish Council have been awarded £5,000 from the Pride in Place community fund to help carry out a feasibility study into the sustainability of the community centre. This may prove a blueprint for other parish councils.

South Norfolk Council submitted a long and detailed letter of objection relating to the Norwich to Tilbury infrastructure proposal by National Grid which would result in pylons across our district. We await a reply.

I attended meetings of the Harleston and District Business Forum and Harleston Branch of the Royal British Legion and gave updates on my journey as a District Councillor. It made me realise how much has been involved from the time I stood for election up until today. Also, that we are only at the beginning of our journeys. Journeys in which both James and I will do our utmost to represent the entire community of the Ward.

I will not be available to have my surgery in October. My next surgery will be on 11 November at Harleston Information Plus on Exchange Street in Harleston between 10:00 and 12:00. I hope to see you there.

Cllr Trevor Graham
South Norfolk Council
Member for Harleston