

WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

OCTOBER MEETING 2023

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Officers from South Norfolk Council are in discussion regarding creating a library of tourism literature under the Visit Harleston banner. The first trails will look at the nearby Round Tower Churches, and Harleston's links with the WWII Friendly Invasion in readiness for the release of the TV series 'Masters of the Air' which is about Norfolk. The tourism initiative provides an opportunity for the inclusion of Wortwell and Needham.

Ian Carstairs, Rev Nigel Tuffnell and I gave presentations about the work in Harleston at nature recovery events in Yorkshire and Harleston. About 200 people attended the events which demonstrates the interest in this initiative. I welcome the endorsement of community nature recovery by Wortwell Parish Council. The model is being promoted by other District Councillors to parishes within their Wards as we move from Nature Recovery without 'parish' boundaries towards Nature Recovery without 'ward' boundaries. The level of take up has far exceeded any hopes or expectations.

South Norfolk Council showed their support for our nature recovery work in approving my application for a Community Action Fund grant of £7,500 for Waveney Volunteers for Nature to buy equipment. The volunteers cut down and clear areas in the Waveney Valley providing a major boost to the biodiversity and contributing to much-needed wildlife corridors. The grant will allow the group to meet the growing demand and help control some of the larger or more densely grown areas.

South Norfolk Council also approved my application for a Community Action Fund grant of £7,500 for Exchange 2 to repair their cabin. The charity provides drop-in and evening facilities for young people living in Harleston, and the nearby parishes.

Harleston Sancroft Academy has been awarded £300 from a 'Go For It' grant to cover some of the costs of the Christmas Lunch. The lunch generally accommodates between 60 and 70 people from the surrounding area. Often these are elderly residents who are lonely and isolated. It has been bringing people together every year since 2009 and provides an enjoyable day out, and also a hot meal for those who may need it.

Former District Councillor Jeremy Savage has been appointed as an Honorary Alderman of South Norfolk in recognition for the many years of notable service he has given to the community. This is a prestigious award only handed out every four years and for only up to six people.

Nominations are now open for South Norfolk Councils' Business Awards. Businesses are invited to nominate themselves in any of the ten categories to be in with a chance of winning a prestigious award. Residents are invited to vote for their favourite Retailer of the Year and Pub of the Year. By voting they will automatically be entered into a prize draw and be in with a chance of winning £100 of shopping and pub vouchers. There will be two lucky winners in South Norfolk.

I will hold my next surgery 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