

WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL
NOVEMBER MEETING 2023
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

South Norfolk Council are offering a Winter Pressures Grant for community organisations with projects that provide support during the winter period. This may be a warm space, Christmas hamper appeal or a new initiative that can evidence a need this winter.

I have been able to help Harleston Information Plus with a successful grant application for £300 from the 'Go For It' fund to reinstate their welcome bags. These are handed out to new residents moving into Harleston and the surrounding area and contain information tailored to their requirements.

South Norfolk Council agreed the sale of South Norfolk House, the old council offices in Long Stratton. In addition, the Chief of Staff will facilitate the establishment of a Long Stratton Community Centre Project Group involving representatives of local parish councils and other stakeholders. Finance of up to £50,000 with matched funding will be provided to develop a feasibility and site location study for a new community centre.

It has also been agreed to provide funds to purchase ten properties for families on the Afghan resettlement schemes, and for general use as temporary accommodation for South Norfolk residents who need additional support. South Norfolk Council will receive 40% of the cost of each home from central Government, but will then retain 100% of the asset, which is excellent value for money for our residents. This is part of the Government strategy to help Afghan nationals who supported our armed forces, and who settled here after the war ended. The aim is to support them into work and move into long term accommodation. The homes for local need will support families who are forced out of homes and risk being homeless.

I am pleased to note the inclusion of biodiversity and nature recovery on the agenda for this evening. I am to give a presentation at the social evening at the Wortwell Core on 8 December on community nature recovery. I hope to report further on community and local nature recovery news in the coming months.

I will hold my next surgery on 9 December at Harleston Information Plus on Exchange Street in Harleston between 10:00 and 12:00. I hope to see you there.

This will be the last meeting of the Parish Council before Christmas, I will therefore take the opportunity to express my gratitude to the councillors who give up their own time to serve the local community. Also, to Lua, the Clerk, who works tirelessly to support the councillors. It is always a pleasure to attend the meetings. I will continue to do my utmost to support the parish council in their work and I look forwards to seeing you all again in 2024. Until then, I wish you a merry Christmas and happy new year.

Cllr Trevor Graham
South Norfolk Council
Member for Harleston