

WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL
JANUARY MEETING 2024
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

I am very pleased to report that South Norfolk Council reinforced their support for nature recovery in passing a motion which I proposed in December. It was agreed to endorse the community nature recovery model pioneered by Harleston and adopted by Wortwell. They will encourage Parish councils across the district to implement the model within their own communities. This is a recognition of the good work of local people on this very important topic.

I would like to highlight and praise the work of Wortwell Parish Council on this very important topic. Firstly, I commend the wonderful work of Councillor Allison Copeman in the production of an 'Environmental and Biodiversity Policy'. This will make a great statement on the website. I believe that the policy could provide a template for other parishes. It is something that I will highlight at South Norfolk Council and within the Norfolk and Suffolk County Council Partnership.

Secondly, round three of the 'Pride in Place Community' grant is now open. This provides help for town and parish councils and voluntary and charitable organisations to enhance their local community and area. As part of the scheme, town and parish councils have been specifically invited to apply for a grant to purchase plants for the community, arrange litter picking events throughout the year or even apply to the Anglia in Bloom scheme. I am delighted to see that the Parish Council has taken up this offer. This grant opportunity fits very well with the community nature recovery initiative.

And finally, I am delighted to be invited to give a presentation at the Wortwell Core in February to help further promote community involvement. A current environmental exhibition in London concludes with words from Sir David Attenborough 'It is within our power to make a difference. We can do it. We must do it. And then there will be a future planet earth for all of us'. How very fitting to our 'We Can' community nature recovery work.

There are hopes the new TV mini-series 'Masters of the Air' produced by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks will boost the local tourism industry. This looks at a time when 50,000 American servicemen came to Norfolk. South Norfolk Council are working with the Harleston and District Historical Society to produce a Harleston based trail leaflet called the 'Friendly Invasion' which will highlight relevant sites. South Norfolk Council worked in collaboration with the 100th Bomb Memorial Museum in holding a meeting on 20 January to discuss the potential impact the series may have on the area, investigate ideas and initiatives, and to develop a collaborative approach to maximising any opportunities. This may be an opportunity for Wortwell to be involved and benefit from the resulting tourism promotion.

I contributed £300 from my Members Ward Allowance for a community performance project being undertaken by three local groups, which includes the Harleston Players and a dance group based in Wortwell. The play will look at the relationship between the American forces stationed in East Anglia during the WWII and the locals of Suffolk and Norfolk. This ties in very well with the Friendly Invasion trail leaflet and can further add to the tourism proposition.

I will hold my next surgery on 10 February at Harleston Information Plus on Exchange Street in Harleston between 10:00 and 11:00. I hope to see you there.

Cllr Trevor Graham
South Norfolk Council
Member for Harleston