

Cllr update 1st Aug

Norfolk County Council Updates

Recycling rates up

Some of you flagged an article that mentioned that Norfolk recycling rates were down and linked this to the booking system. I'm told this was an incorrect link to make as the recycling rates referenced were county wide and largely related to kerbside collections and more specifically the lack of green garden waste collected last year, due to dry conditions. Apparently, the recycling rates at recycling centres were up 2% on the previous year.

Parish Partnership Scheme

Thanks to your hard work and parish contributions, last year's Parish Partnership Scheme delivered almost £800k of highways improvements. Details of how to bid for the 27/28 scheme will be coming out soon.

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government urged to halt local government reorganisation in Norfolk

Norfolk County Council's deputy leader has written to newly appointed Secretary of State for local government, Angela Rayner, to ask for a halt to local government reorganisation.

Further details and a copy of the letter are available in the county council news release [here](#).

Free bus travel for children in August

Don't forget there is free bus travel for children aged 5 to 15 in August. This could save families lots of money and make it easier to visit Norfolk's attractions, events and destinations during the school holidays.

Five of Norfolk's main bus operators are taking part, so children aged 5 to 15 can travel free throughout August on services operated by First Bus, Sanders, Stagecoach, Border Bus and Central Connect.

Further information about participating operators and Good Journey attractions is available at www.travelnorfolk.co.uk/summersavings.

Reuse shops raise for £32,000 for charity

Nelson's Journey, a local charity which supports children and young people in Norfolk who've experienced the death of a significant person, has recently been presented with a cheque for £32,000 raised through donations from Norfolk County Council's Reuse Shops.

Housed in 14 of Norfolk County Council's recycling centres, Reuse Shops welcome donations of second-hand items and sell these at bargain prices. Last year they stopped 1,394 tonnes of reusable items being thrown away.

To date, the Reuse Shops have raised over £155,000 for local charities.

Further information about reuse shops, including their locations, is available [here](#).

Driver and motorcycle rider safety in Norfolk

The Norfolk Road Safety Partnership has launched *We share the road. We share the responsibility*, a countywide campaign encouraging drivers and motorcyclists to take simple steps to reduce serious and fatal collisions.

The campaign highlights that many collisions happen in good conditions, on dry roads and in daylight, with risk often linked to decisions, observation and responses to hazards. Key messages include: be seen, look twice, slow down and stay focused.

Norfolk residents can book the Hugger motorcycle training course at half price for sessions between August and October 2026.

Further information about the campaign, including safety advice and details of advanced driver and rider courses, is available [here](#).

Further information about Norfolk's road safety partnership is available [here](#).

National Updates

The Big Conversation on Adult Social Care

Baroness Casey of Blackstock has [launched The Big Conversation on Care](#), offering the public a direct role in shaping the future of adult social care in England.

Between now and April 2027, The Big Conversation will give people across England the opportunity to say what they want and expect from a future National Care Service.

Everyone is encouraged to participate and have their say. Further details and a link to take part are available at [The Big Conversation on Care | The Casey Commission](#).

Technical education routes to be offered from age 14

The Government [has announced plans](#) for new technical education routes from age 14, giving Year 10 pupils earlier access to technical skills, work experience and local employer links, while continuing core subjects including English, maths and science.

The pathways are intended to put technical education on an equal footing with academic routes and create clearer routes into skilled jobs in sectors such as engineering, healthcare, digital technology, manufacturing and construction, linked to local labour market needs.

Provision is expected to be shaped locally by schools, colleges, mayors, local leaders and employers around local industries and future growth sectors. Employers are expected to play a larger role through mentoring, workplace visits, projects and high-quality work experience.

The Government says it will work with mayors, local leaders, schools, colleges and employers to develop the pathways, with an ambition to begin rolling them out from September 2028.