

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FOR CORPUSTY & SAXTHORPE PC – APRIL/MAY 2025

PLANNING REFORM

The new Government's drive to improve our planning system continues its passage through Parliament and has proposals for easier acquisition of building land by local authorities, localising planning fees and increasing capacity for planners. They say it's needed to help councils deliver the homes and infrastructure our communities require. It also proposes to restrict whether decisions are taken by planners or councillors via committee. This is a concern because local councils should always have an opportunity to scrutinise decisions that affect us locally.

LOCAL PLAN LATEST

The latest stage of approving the new Local Plan for the District took another step this month towards being adopted. The Govt. Inspector announced that the recent changes agreed with the Council are acceptable so the main effect is our annual target will be cropped to approx. 575 new houses instead of 900+ over the next 15 years. More to follow as this unfolds later.

FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

The Council has allocated £1.456 million to purchase vehicles ahead of the new food waste collection rotas introduced by the former Government and effective from April 2026. NNDC is required to operate a weekly food waste collection service from next April along with all authorities nationally. Each household will receive a 5-litre food waste caddy. How this will impact all bin collections has still to be determined between NNDC and their operator, Serco.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM (LGR)

The LGR debate between our Council who prefer a three unitary model with East, West and Greater Norwich and those who prefer either just one (like the County Council) or two (Norwich and then the rest of the county) continues as the Govt. are allowing the Council until September for formal bids to be submitted.

NEW BANK HUB

A temporary hub has opened at the Venue in Holt until a permanent venue is ready later this year. It will open Mon-Friday 9am - 5pm with banking staff on Mon from Natwest; Tues from TSB; Barclays on Wed; Santander on Thurs and Lloyds on Fri. It will offer the chance to pay in and withdraw cash, pay utility bills, top up gas and electricity and give change to businesses.

HOLT PRIMARY SCHOOL LATEST

The County Council will still not commit to building the new school after permission was granted several years ago. Their revised view is that population growth has declined and is not currently justified. This is being disputed by others who are well aware that funding from the developer is time-limited and could be recalled within the next 5 years if building the new school is not started. The residential part of the site currently being marketed was only allowed under planning rules because of the delivery of a new school.

NEW LIDL IN HOLT

The Council are expecting a planning application for a much-needed new store on the edge of the Heath Drive. Before applying Lidl would like to know what the local community thinks of the proposal. An open meeting at the Community Centre on Kerridge Way NR25 6DN took place last Friday 9 May 3.30 – 7.30pm to consult with people about what's in store!

CORPORATE PLAN DELIVERY

As we approach the end of the 2024/25 civic year, I am pleased to say the Council has made significant progress in delivering its annual Corporate Plan objectives. Of the 44 targets, 34 are on track to be delivered and a further 7 with modifications will deliver successfully. Examples of success are improved recycling of waste, the Coastwise project to improve sea defences, delivering residents' surveys, promoting healthier lifestyles, resolving nutrient neutrality issues, 2nd homes council tax receipts, 184 affordable homes built with another 508 close to gaining planning, new Economic Growth Action Plan, Holt bank hub launch to mention a selection of services.

Thank you for reading this report.

Cllr. Andrew Brown

10/5/2025