

District Councillors' Report for Mulbarton Parish Council – 17th August 2026

Member Ward Grants

Requests for support with small projects (typically up to £1,000 per project) to benefit the local community can be made to your District Councillors. Please note funding for 2026/27 is largely allocated.

In Bloom Grant

Applications for In Bloom Grants are open to Parish Councils and other community organisations until 15th November 2026. The grant is limited to £1 per resident and must be matched funded.

Nature Conservation Fund

Applications can be made for grants of up to £10,000 for projects which support nature recovery and improve or help connect residents to accessible greenspaces. The scheme is open to Town and Parish Councils, community groups, charities and schools in South Norfolk. Applications close on Friday 16th September.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/environment/nature-conservation-fund>

Community & Open Spaces Grant

Up to £2.25 million of funding is available to support larger projects valued at over £200,000 which are led by Parish and Town Councils but support South Norfolk Council's strategic ambitions and wider place shaping ambitions.

Food Waste

South Norfolk has started food waste collections in some areas, with 39 tons of waste recycled in the first week.

Mulbarton is part of the 2nd phase, planned to start on 28th Sept. Timetables are being reviewed following a review of Phase 1. When a revised timetable is available, this will be shown on the Council's webpage:

<https://forms.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/FoodWasteChecker/index.aspx>

Local Government Reform and Devolution

Both Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk District Council are submitting applications for a judicial review of the Government's plans for the reorganisation of Norfolk into 3 Unitary Authorities.

Council officers continue to expect LGR to be implemented, with elections to the new authorities in May 2027.

However, there is no certainty until Parliament agrees the Structural Change Order. There are suggestions this has been delayed until the end of 2026 or early 2027.

Let's Go – South Norfolk Visitor Economy Website

[Explore South Norfolk and Broadland - Lets go!](#) This is a website showcasing places to visit, things to do, local events, walking and cycling routes, attractions, accommodation, food and drink venues, and independent businesses across the two districts. The initiative aims to encourage both residents and visitors to discover more of our local area, helping to support businesses and communities. The website is live but will be updated with more listings. Organisations interested in joining this initiative should email lets.go@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk to find out more.

Apex Data Centre

Proposals continue to be developed for a 150 MW data centre on land between the B1113 and the A140 at Harford Bridge. The developer recently completed a public consultation, but no planning application has yet been submitted to South Norfolk Council. The proposal would replace the previously approved business park with a major digital infrastructure facility and includes associated highway improvements. Once a planning application is lodged, there will be a further statutory consultation, allowing parish councils and residents to comment before any decision is made.

Hethel Roundabout Project

The confirmed dates for the closure of Wymondham Road in Hethel are 14th July to 18th September. During this period Bridge Road in Wrenningham will be closed to all traffic apart from deliveries and local residents and businesses. Temporary traffic lights will be installed on Wymondham Road from 21st September to 2nd October to permit the formal 'stopping up' of the junction with Potash Lane (Highway terminology for closing the road to public traffic). The final completion of the work is expected on 20th November.

Stoke Lane Solar Park

On 18th August, EDF is opening a consultation for the proposed Stoke Lane Solar Farm in Swainsthorpe and Stoke Holy Cross between the A140 and the River Tas. Details are given below.

Consultation	Date & Time	Location
Public exhibition 1	Tuesday August 18th, 3pm - 8pm	Stoke Holy Cross Community Hall, NR14 8LY
Public exhibition 2	Tuesday August 18th, 3pm - 8pm	The Eaton Suite, Dunston Hall Hotel, NR14 8PQ
Virtual consultation	Tuesday August 18th to Friday September 18th	https://www.edf-powersolutions.uk/our-sites/stoke-lane-solar/

East Pye Solar Farm

The Planning Inspectorate (PI) has published its preliminary timetable for the examination of the scheme which would run from 15th September to 23rd February 2027. The examination will principally be by written submissions with additional hearings. The preliminary hearings are planned for 15th and 16th September at Dunston Hall Hotel (and via online livestream). Registration to speak or to attend in person must be completed by 1st September. For further information see the PI website: [East Pye Solar - Project information](#)

'Norwich to Tilbury' Update

The Planning Inspectorate's Inspection of the Norwich Tilbury Pylon proposal closed on 10 August 2026. The PI's recommendations to the Secretary of State should be completed within 3 months (ie mid-November).

PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to campaign against the pylon proposals and are fundraising. For further information visit: <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions>.

Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber

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