

District Councillors' Report, Mulbarton Parish Council 20th July 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 also discuss larger grants with your District Councillors (see Communities Action Fund and Communities Facilities Grants below).

Communities Action Fund (CAF) and Communities Facilities Grant (CFG)

Much larger grants (potentially up to £40,000) are also available from the District Council through CAF and CFG grants. Applications, via your District Councillor, are now open. The closing date is 16th August. Applications are more likely to be funded if matched funding is available from other sources.

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.

Community & Open Spaces Grant

Applications for this grant is expected to open soon. 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. The local Council is expected to provide some matched funding. Applications are through a 2-stage process. At Stage 1 councils must complete an initial expression of interest. Successful projects for 26/27 are likely to be significantly advanced already.

Food Waste

Collections of food waste in Mulbarton are on track to start in the week starting 28th September on the usual rubbish and recycling day. Further information, caddies and bags will be provided to residents in the 2/3 weeks before the start date.

County Council Recycling Centres

Norwich South Recycling Centre is now able to accept all electricals for recycling including fridges and freezers. Please note that there is a nationwide shortage of capacity for recycling fridges and freezers.

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.

While council officers continue to expect LGR to be implemented, with elections to the new authorities in May 2027, there are suggestions that the timetable for the necessary Parliamentary Structural Change Order is delayed until the end of 2026.

Hethel Roundabout Project

The confirmed dates for the full closure of B1135, Wymondham Road in Hethel are 20th July to 18th September. Further information on the B1135 Hethel Roundabout and Link Road works, including planned road closures, diversion routes and construction phases, is available from South Norfolk Council at:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning/future-development/infrastructure-delivery/b1135-hethel-roundabout-and-link-road>

Apex Data Centre

There was an online consultation regarding a proposal for a large 150MW data centre at the “brown” field site between the A140 and the B1113, opposite Harford Bridge Tesco. The consultation closed on Sunday 12th July. The developer has indicated that it expects to submit a planning application in the summer. There is an existing planning approval for industrial/ commercial use of the site, which includes a new road to alleviate pressure at the existing junction. This is expected to be carried forward into the new application. The proposal is raising many environmental concerns locally. A full planning application is expected later in the summer. The consultation can be found at <https://www.apexnorwichdatacentre.co.uk/> .

East Pye Solar Farm.

Registrations with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for this scheme are now closed. The timetable for the examination stage will now be set by the Planning Inspectorate.

‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update

The National Grid’s Development Consent Order continues at the examination phase. This is scheduled to close on 10 August 2026, although an earlier close is possible. The initial public hearings have been completed and can be viewed online: [Examination timetable - Norwich to Tilbury - Find a National Infrastructure Project](#).

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

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