

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FOR BRINTON&SHARRINGTON PC – JULY 2026

1. SHRUBBS POULTRY FARM

An application has been re-submitted in Saxthorpe for a large poultry farm, following amendments to implement a legal decision by the High Court, against the Council's planners, to provide safeguards for animal welfare. There will always be lingering concerns about large factory farms but the planners' hands are tied by the Court decision and the confirmation of approval by the Environment Agency and DEFRA. A decision will be taken whether to take the case to the development committee.

2. REVENUES AND BENEFITS AWARD

National Collection Results for 2025/26 show us collecting 98.34% placing us as the best in Norfolk and 14th out of 295 local authorities in the country. In fact, we are in the top 4-5% best collectors in the country and 4th best among the 45 Eastern region local authorities. Well done to our staff in achieving these levels.

3. SKILLS AND WORK CAREER SERVICE

The North Norfolk Skills and Employment Forum promoted by the Council with County, schools, colleges, training providers, business and other partners to share intelligence and co-ordinate responses to local challenges including recruitment, retention and training access opportunities. The Council publishes a monthly newsletter, "In The Know", which releases the latest business news and events. Find it on the NNDC website by entering "Invest North Norfolk" in the search box.

4.SUFFIELD PARK BY-ELECTION

I have been joined by a new colleague, Tyler Wragg aged 20, who held the Suffield Park, Cromer NNDC seat comfortably with 65% of the votes following the resignation of the long-standing Cllr Spagnola. This maintains the Lib Dem 26 seat stronghold. Tyler began his interest in local politics as a founder member of the Youth Parliament set up by the District Council to encourage political engagement at an early age.

5.POLICE COMMISSIONER (PCC) ELECTION

At the time of writing the result of the PCC election has just been announced and Reform UK's Colin Sutton a retired Metropolitan Police officer has been elected to govern fellow policemen for 2 years. I have to question the rationale for having a policeman marking the work of other police officers, hardly independent, and also the misguided decision to spend £2million of taxpayers' money on a position due to be transferred to the directly elected mayor in 2028.

6.ALDI VERSUS LIDL IN HOLT

A last-minute legal challenge by Aldi has deferred the Planning Development Committee considering both applications together at this month's meeting which is now expected to be decided at the 13 August meeting. According to analysis Holt only has capacity for one more store in addition to Budgens. Meanwhile we continue to wait for the decision.

7.LOCAL PLAN AND CALL FOR SITES PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

The review of the new 2024-40 Local Plan launched last December has begun. We ran the first consultation last month for landowners to release sites for future developments. On 20 July we will launch a second "call for sites" and also a consultation for both public and professionals for new ideas to go in the next Local Plan due to finish in 2029 with the new East Norfolk Unitary Council. This process is imposed on the Council by the current Government as part of their plan to improve how planning will deliver new houses more quickly by the end of the current parliament. More info is available at www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/localplanreview and www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/callforsites.

8.OUTLOOK MAGAZINE

The Council's latest magazine will soon be delivered to every door to inform residents of the variety of activities being undertaken by the Council. We maintain this information in print as opposed to digital format because we are aware that many do not have access to digital devices. I am pleased that the Council have included an article on fly-tipping penalties as a result of a motion I brought to the Council a few months ago receiving support from all 40 councillors.

9.PLANNING DESIGN GUIDE

The Council maintains a major planning guide for developers and we are working on updating the current 2011 document with a new guide partly because there is tremendous change happening courtesy of the current government. Its very important to keep pace with new techniques but we have to make sure that new properties are using locally sourced materials and consistently designed in their surroundings.

10.ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CONCERN

Next week I am due to attend a meeting with my councillor colleagues in Holt and the Police to discuss the recent upsurge in criminal behaviour in the town and what can be done to manage vigilance and policing better.

Thank you for reading this report.

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