

FRANSHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.30pm on Thursday 2nd May 2024 in Great Fransham Church

Present: Cllr Richard Watts, County & District Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris, Mr James Sheringham and four members of the public.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, there were no apologies for absence.

2. To accept the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2023.

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Chairman presented his annual report (attached).

4. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

The County Councillor presented his annual report (attached).

5. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

The District Councillor presented his annual report (attached).

6. To receive a report from the Church Representative.

On behalf of the Church, Mr Sheringham, presented the annual report (attached).

7. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee.

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, Mr Sheringham presented the annual report (attached).

8. To receive a report from the Fransham in Relief Charity.

On behalf of the Charity, Mr Sheringham presented the annual report (attached).

9. To receive a report from Necton Church of England Primary School.

On behalf of the Chair of Governors, the Chairman presented the annual report (attached).

10. **Open Forum - an opportunity for residents of the parish to express their views on matters of interest or concern relating to the village and to suggest ideas for the future.**

There were no matters raised in the open forum.

11. **To note the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 20th May 2025.**

The date of the next meeting was noted. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 6.41pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairman's Report

As usual I would like to thank the Vice-chair and Clerk for their support and assistance though the last year. I would also like thank the council for voting me into the position.

I am pleased to say that we have a stable council with no changes to our members to report. Although all the places on our Parish Council are currently filled, I am still keen to find the prospective Parish Councillors of the future so if you are in any way interested, please get in touch through our Clerk.

The Clerk is doing a very good job administering the ongoing requirements to maintain the Local Council Quality Award, something the council are proud to hold.

The Fransham Facebook page is keeping residents up to date and is a useful tool to spread the word on relevant information, if there is anything you would like the wider community to be aware of then please contact the administrator who will be happy to post information for you. I would like to thank Councillor Robinson for her continued efforts in keeping the information up to date. Although she is doing a great job, I am sure she would welcome support so if you would like to assist her, please get in touch.

I am sure you will have noticed that the trod has been through improvement work. A thank you must be given to our County Councillor who has assisted with the funding. I am sure you will agree that the work has made a big difference, however we are still aware that there are a few issues with drainage, a resolution will be on the agenda.

We are still pushing National Highways on the possibility of installing a crossing and extensions to a pavement on the A47, something that we unanimously agreed would be of benefit to all the community and their safety.

After a few disappointments with the grass cutting services, I am pleased to report that we now have a contractor who is doing a good job in keeping the areas of responsibility nicely maintained and look forward to an ongoing service from them. We have also instructed cleaning of the bus shelters which suffer from traffic grime off the A47, they look much better and should last a great deal longer. The other assets that the council have a responsibility for are regularly checked for their condition, any matter in need of attention is highlighted to the council for discussion. Normally any rectification is done by members of the council in their own time; on behalf of the community I would like to thank the councillors for their time and help to keep the parish assets in a good state.

The orchard trees planted on the Village Hall field unfortunately succumbed to a dry summer last year. Thanks to personal effort of members of the council and with funding secured by the Clerk in the form of a grant, we now have new trees. Thank you to all involved.

The website is still going strong, it is a great source of information regarding the Parish with lots of interesting reading. It is the council's portal to present information with agendas, minutes, notices, and articles about the parish so if you have a few spare minutes, it is worth a look. If you have an article you would like to share, please feel free to liaise with the Clerk who I am sure will be happy to post suitable material for you.

Planning, as always, has a regular spot on the agenda. This is our opportunity to discuss and agree any comment we have on applications and submit the view of the council before the application is

decided on by Breckland Council. However, this isn't necessarily just our opinions. During each meeting we have time allocated for the views of the public on planning and any other subject to be considered prior to our Planning discussion. Remember it is your voice we will bring forward for discussion.

As chair I would like to thank the members of the council who freely give up their own time to act on the behalf of the community. Each member of the Council has gone beyond their obligations and put in extra effort to help the parish.

Finally, I would like to use the words I signed off with last year and to reinforce the point that we are representatives of the community. We all give freely our time to ensure the community has a voice. It is your views, comments, and questions that we are here to listen to and act upon.

Richard Watts

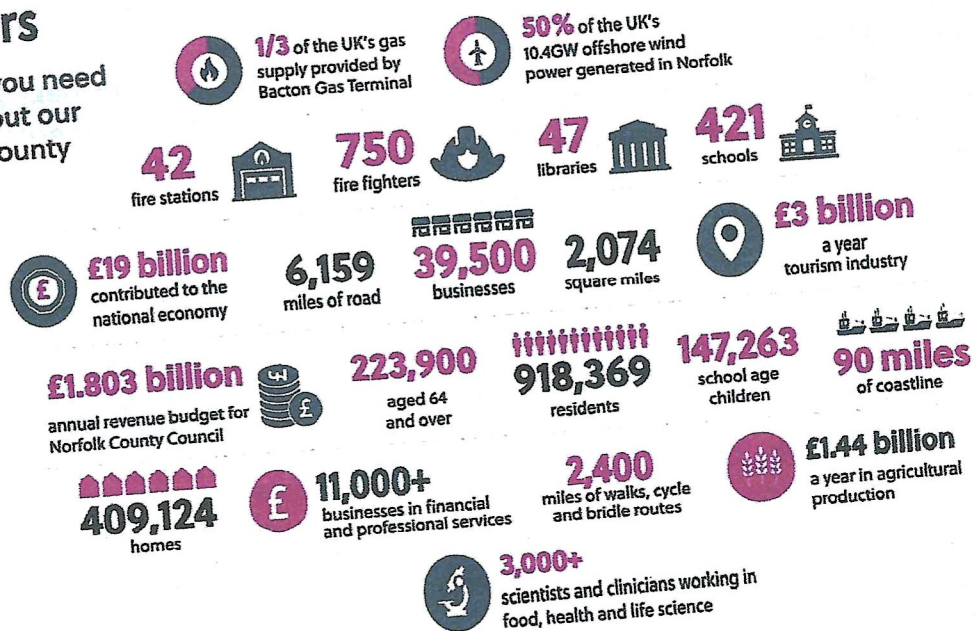
Chairman

Norfolk County Council Annual Report 2023/24

- 97.4% of highways inspections completed within timescale
- 96.8% of 'Priority A' defects (classified as dangerous/emergency) were fixed within the Transport Asset Management Plan timescales
- 95% Customer satisfaction (with Council Services)
- 96% of Looked after Children with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan
- Completed over 90,000 Adult Social Care Assessments for over 26,000 people

Norfolk in numbers

Everything you need to know about our incredible county



Council agrees £528m budget.

Councillors have backed a budget that "delivers for Norfolk", in the face of major challenges facing local government. Deputy council leader Councillor Andrew Jamieson, cabinet member for finance, told today's full council meeting that the budget would deliver for Norfolk. This is despite major cost and demand pressures facing all councils.

He said: "Our priorities are stable and sustainable finances, well delivered public services, economic growth and protecting and enhancing Norfolk's heritage and environment." Cllr Jamieson said it was a budget for the future, with an additional £60m for adult social services and £35m extra for children's services, and savings from transforming how the council operates. Cllr Jamieson pledged to continue to lobby the next Government for multi-year settlements, fair funding and reform of adult social care funding.

County Council leader, Councillor Kay Mason Billig, said the council would continue to be ambitious for Norfolk and had achieved many successes - against a tough economic backdrop. She said: "We know that our residents will be concerned about the decisions we make and how that may affect them. This year's budget has been one of the toughest to determine but we have a statutory duty to provide a balanced position, and that is what we are presenting to you."

The key headlines from the budget agreed today are:

- £122m of investment to meet demand and cost pressures next year - including £34.6m for inflation, £38m for legislative requirements, £39.7m for demand and demographic issues and £9.6m for policy decisions.
- £41.5m of new savings, including £9.6m from transforming how the council operates.
- A proposed 4.99% increase in the County Council's share of Council Tax, in line with the Government's capping level (2.99% for general Council Tax and 2% for adult social care). This would increase the Council's share of band D bills to £1,672.11. A 4.99% rise would generate £24.9m.
- A small number of the budget proposals have been identified as requiring consultation, as they may relate to a policy or service change. Cabinet will take decisions on these proposals in the summer, after considering the consultation results.

Councillors accept £600 million devolution deal.

County councillors have voted to accept a county deal devolution agreement with the Government, to transfer significant funding and powers to Norfolk.

Government funding will start transferring to Norfolk next summer, if councillors vote in July 2024 to stage the first election for a leader in May 2025. The deal will mean that decisions can be taken in Norfolk, for Norfolk.

The full council agreed the following recommendations:

Council:

- Recognises the work carried out during 2023 to consult with the public, inform Members and prepare plans in relation to the 'in-principle' County Deal brought to Council in January this year.
- Commends the work undertaken by the Leader and Officers to secure additional benefits for the Norfolk County Deal and resolves that the Deal should be accepted.
- Agrees that the election for the Directly Elected Leader should be held alongside the county council elections in May 2025 to enable the widest possible engagement with the electorate.
- Agrees that the resolution adopting the new governance arrangements should be brought to the Full Council meeting on 23 July 2024 to facilitate that election date.

For further details go to www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkcountydeal.

Background - what would a county deal mean?

Norfolk faces a major opportunity to gain new powers and funding from the Government, through an agreement called the County Deal. We could make more decisions in Norfolk, for Norfolk and secure investment of more than £600m over 30 years. If councillors agree the in-principal deal, it will enable us to invest in areas such as transport, skills and job opportunities, housing and regeneration, tailored to the needs of local people.

A County Deal would mean:

- Having a Council Leader who is directly elected by the public, enabling Norfolk's voice to be heard by the Government.
- Targeting funding and resources to Norfolk's own priorities.
- Unlocking housing and employment sites.
- Investing in the skills we need and attracting and retaining key businesses.
- Opening the door to more - further powers and funding in future

Norfolk County Council provided extra support to households this winter.

Earlier this year, Norfolk County Council announced it would receive further funding from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to run the Household Support Fund until 31 March 2024. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget that this funding would be extended by a further six months.

The council has received £13.4m from central government and adding an additional £400,000 to make the total programme of support worth £13.8m. It is working closely with district, borough, and city councils, public sector partners to identify and implement a range of support measures to meet the needs of vulnerable households.

Norfolk's roads and footpaths to be fixed as part of £4.51m funding.

Thirty-four roads and 20 footpaths across the County will be repaired by Norfolk County Council during this coming year as part of Government funding. Roads from Great Yarmouth to King's Lynn, from Hunstanton to Thetford and many in between the entire County will receive reclamite spray or resurfacing along with footpath construction to ensure Norfolk's infrastructure can best help people to get to work, travel to services and access Norfolk's natural and cultural assets through effective highways maintenance.

Twenty-seven brand new gritters joined Norfolk's fleet

Twenty-seven brand new gritters took to the roads for the first time later this winter in a £3,238,000 boost to the annual push to help keep Norfolk moving safely during the winter months.

Norfolk's fleet of 58 winter vehicles treat 2,200 miles of roads on each full 3-hour gritting run. All A and B-class roads and some C-class roads are treated with a focus on commuter and major bus routes and as far as is possible one route into all villages. The A11 and A47 are gritted by National Highways.

In addition to the 49 gritting routes, several pedestrian areas and main pavements are treated in the centre of Norwich, Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn, and more than 2000 grit bins are available around the county for people to use on roads, pavements and cycle paths.

Find more information via www.norfolk.gov.uk/winter

Norfolk flood protection took centre stage in Westminster.

The threat posed by flooding and coastal erosion in Norfolk has been laid out starkly for MPs as Norfolk County Council has taken their case for change to the heart of Westminster. A delegation from Norfolk, led by Norfolk County Council Leader Cllr Kay Mason Billig and the Chair of the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance (NSFA), Henry Cator, met with MPs, on the 71st anniversary of the 1953 North Sea Flood, to explain the risks Norfolk faces and how those risks could be addressed.

As demonstrated over this winter, our county faces regular risks of flooding, with Norfolk ranked tenth most at risk of surface water flooding out of 149 local authority areas. In addition, the county's position on the North Sea exposes it to tidal threats as well as significant coastal erosion: without action, it's estimated that in North Norfolk alone approximately 1,030 residential and commercial properties could be lost to erosion by 2100. That number could be up to 10,000 in all of Norfolk.

These risks threaten both Norfolk residents and the contribution Norfolk makes to the wider country, as home to 54% of the offshore wind generation capacity in the UK and a major producer of food.

In a presentation delivered in Portcullis House, part of the Parliamentary Estate in Westminster, Norfolk's delegation made the case for MPs to:

- Push for legislative permission to build reservoirs designed to capture excess water in times of flood, for use in times of drought.
- Advocate for Property Flood Protection measures to be granted directly to the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for faster allocation for those who need it.
- Reduce bureaucracy by granting greater autonomy in funding allocation for surface water flood mitigation schemes.
- Combine enforcement and maintenance powers and responsibilities for LLFA's.
- Support the creation of a dedicated Minister for the Coast.

£1 million boost for Highway Parish Partnership Schemes

Schemes totalling over £1m will be distributed across Norfolk to deliver the wants and needs of local parishes and residents as part of the Highway Parish Partnership.

The Parish Partnership scheme began in September 2011, when Parish and Town Councils were invited to submit bids for local highway improvements, with the County Council funding up to 50% of bid costs. The key benefits of the scheme are that it:

- Delivers local priorities identified by local people.

- Draws in additional funding for small scale highway improvements, enabling us to collectively deliver more schemes.
- Gives local communities an opportunity to directly influence the improvements in their local area. The programme continues to be well received by Parish/Town Councils, Local Members, and communities. Information about the number of bids received through the scheme over the past twelve years demonstrates there is a good spread across Norfolk.

A County Council contribution £467,884 and a Safety Camera Partnership contribution of £43,760 along with funding from Town and Parish Councils, will enable a programme of local works totalling £1,040,586 to be delivered.

For information on current schemes and if there are Parish Councils who wish to apply for future schemes then contact your County Councillor in the first instance. For further information please see <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/parishpartnerships>

24/7 free travel to all disabled bus pass holders in Norfolk

From 1 February 2024 all Norfolk residents who hold a disabled concessionary travel pass will be eligible for free bus travel 24 hours a day, seven days a week when travelling within the county.

The decision, which was published today by Norfolk County Council, means that more than 14,500 people across the county who hold a concessionary bus pass due to disability, and their eligible companions, will now be able to travel on any bus at any time free of charge across Norfolk.

Previously concessionary pass holders with a disability were only able to travel for free on buses off-peak (all day on Saturdays and Sundays but only from 09:30 Monday to Friday) except for those registered blind or visually impaired.

Offering free travel at all times is over and above the minimum requirement set by government and is something that a local authority can choose to do but doesn't have to do. The change was recommended following an updated equality impact assessment of the scheme which concluded that it is now unfair to offer a discretionary enhancement to just one group of disabled people (i.e. those who are blind or visually impaired).

The recommendation agreed by the individual cabinet member was to 'extend the concessionary travel discretion of free travel at all times to all eligible disabled passholders and eligible companions, from 1 February 2024.'

The cost of providing this enhancement is estimated at £50,000 which will be funded by the Council's ring-fenced public transport budget provided by the Department for Transport.

Householders can have free DIY waste disposal for small projects.

Norfolk residents have been able to dispose of small amounts of DIY waste at Norfolk's Recycling Centres free of charge from 31st December following changes made by Norfolk County Council.

The change applies to small-scale projects carried out by householders on their own home, allowing them to bring a maximum 100 litres (must fit into 2 x 50l bags) for free or one single item (maximum size of 200cm x 70cm x 75cm). Each household is allowed four free visits with DIY waste every four weeks. Anything beyond this will still be charged at normal rates.

The change in policy follows Government abolishing charges for the disposal of limited amounts and types of DIY waste at recycling centres across the UK.

Prior to 31st December, customers with DIY-type construction and demolition waste will continue to be directed to the 'Pay as you throw service' which is available at all centres.

Traders must continue to pay for DIY waste. For more information visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/DIYwaste

Climate Strategy was launched at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum

Norfolk County Council's Climate Strategy, adopted by Cabinet last May, was launched at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum with special guest Kate Strong, world record holder and endurance cyclist.

The Climate Strategy sets out how the council will work not only to reduce its own carbon emissions, but to drive down emissions across the county, protect the unique environment of Norfolk, and to seize the opportunities the move to a green economy represents, securing investment and growth for Norfolk.

Key proposals include:

- Supporting active and sustainable transport, including further bus improvements and electric vehicle charging

- Providing space for nature and developing a nature recovery strategy.
- Retrofitting council buildings to take out gas and oil heating and improve insulation – and encouraging businesses, residents and other organisations to do the same.
- Reducing emissions from the council's companies, such as Norse.
- Developing the green economy, with support for green skills, sustainable tourism and businesses.
- The development of a nature recovery strategy to protect our natural assets and encourage greater biodiversity.
- Working with the Tyndall Centre for climate change research at the University of East Anglia, to understand climate change impacts and how Norfolk might adapt to them.
- Close collaboration between public sector, business, community and voluntary groups.

Award-winning Adult Learning service rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

Norfolk County Council's Adult Learning has been rated as 'Good' following their latest Ofsted inspection. The inspection report praised the ambition of the service, which provides community-based and online learning for around 6,000 adults a year. The service achieved a 'Good' rating across all six areas that were inspected, alongside the overall 'Good' rating. Inspectors commented that learners are 'highly motivated' and committed to their studies. They praised the number of people who have a 'clear plan' for their future careers and that they want to improve their economic prospects.

Inspectors highlighted the work with residents of retirement homes who have increased their confidence, self-care and resilience after completing courses in basic cookery. They commented how, following the course, learners felt less isolated and 'excited to prepare and eat their own meals'.

It was also recognised that the service has responded effectively to the growing demand for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses.

There was praise for the work with Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service apprentices. The inspectors saw how the course helps them to work safely while learning about the importance of health and nutrition. The report concluded that the 'apprenticeship is well matched to the needs of the fire service.'

This inspection result comes on the back of Norfolk County Council Adult Learning being named 'Further or Higher Education Provider of the Year' at this year's Norfolk Education Awards. This followed national recognition in 2021 where the service was named adult and community learning provider of the year at the Tes Further Education Awards.

Norfolk County Council Adult Learning offers a wide range of courses for adults of all levels and interests. Whether you want to change your career, improve your skills, or pursue your passion.

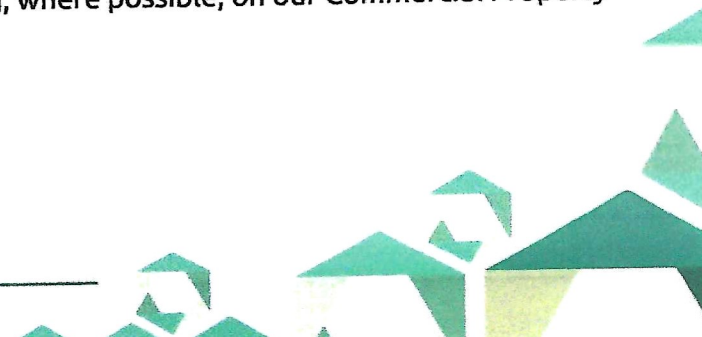
Find out more about Adult Learning and browse the course catalogue at www.norfolk.gov.uk/adultlearning.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.
Member for Necton and Launditch.
Norfolk County Council.

Our Corporate Plan Achievements 2023/2024

Breckland
2035

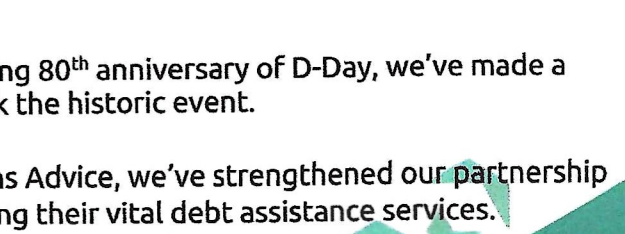
Breckland Council has recognised that there is a climate emergency that needs our attention.

- ❖ To recognise the public sector staff who worked tirelessly during the COVID pandemic, we've funded £25,000 to plant 2,400 trees for a Woodland of Thanks at Oxburgh Hall. The trees will also help with biodiversity and removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.
 - ❖ To help reduce CO2 emissions, we have:
 - continued work to roll out electric vehicle charging points in our District.
 - approved the installation of solar panels at Dereham Leisure Centre, saving 47,000 KG of CO2 per year.
 - agreed a New Green Tariff reducing our CO2 emissions for electric to zero.
 - secured £530k in decarbonisation grants to reduce carbon emissions in our leisure facilities.
 - worked with partners to deliver new environmentally friendly eco-bus shelters in Swaffham.
 - Replaced 1673 streetlights with energy efficient LED bulbs.
 - ❖ To keep our communities pleasant and clean, we've supported over 30 community litter picks and taken over 160 informal actions against fly tippers.
 - ❖ To enable composting, we've grown our garden waste subscribers to over 25,818 residents. This is nearly 40% of our households benefiting from the service, and together composting nearly 10,000 tonnes of garden waste each year.
 - ❖ By providing a flexible, reliable, and cost-effective business waste collection and disposal service for Breckland, we've exceeded our customer growth target by 15%, now having more than 305 customers and £220k gross income.
 - ❖ To increase our tree canopy cover, we've secured, and have started to distribute, DEFRA funding of £26,400 for the planting of community orchards within our District.
 - ❖ To reduce our CO2 emissions and to attract and retain our workforce, we've approved a Car Salary Sacrifice Scheme to allow employees to lease an electric or hybrid car.
 - ❖ To support Breckland businesses, we've launched the Low Carbon Regeneration Programme, providing tailored advice and support for their journey to reducing CO2 emissions and becoming Net Zero.
 - ❖ We've improved the energy performance rating, where possible, on our Commercial Property portfolio.
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Thriving Places

We will play an active role in creating the right conditions for new and existing local businesses to thrive.

- ❖ To keep our communities safe, we've repaired or replaced over 70 streetlights.
- ❖ We've successfully generated over £30,000 in surplus land sales, helping us maintain a balanced budget.
- ❖ To make a more pleasant area for residents, we've completed works on the Thetford underpass improvement scheme.
- ❖ We've decided 90% of major planning applications within their timescale, in order to facilitate economic growth in our District.
- ❖ To bring the community of Thetford together, we've successfully delivered the Stage and Screen festival with Thetford Town Council.
- ❖ To revitalise local market towns, we've launched our Love Your Market Town scheme, awarding £5k grants to support ideas and initiatives which will generate footfall and activity into local town centres in Breckland.
- ❖ We've managed our £45 million commercial property portfolio, allowing the right environment for businesses to flourish and to attract inward investment into the District.
- ❖ Recognising the power of partnership working and the hard work in regenerating the Queen Mother's Garden in Dereham, we were awarded the British Association of Landscape Industries Regeneration Scheme Award.
- ❖ With the aim of creating jobs, supporting local businesses and boosting the towns economy, partnership working between the Wayland Partnership and Breckland Council, with funding from Norfolk County Council we are forming plans to develop a Digital and Creative Media Centre in Watton.
- ❖ We've supported local communities to celebrate the King's Coronation.
- ❖ We've continued our collaborative working to support the delivery of power distribution infrastructure at Snetterton and to build upon the success of the new primary substation.
- ❖ To foster economic growth, community development and improved rural infrastructure, we've launched a new Business Support Scheme for small businesses and community organisations. The funds help businesses diversify or grow, bring more customers to the area or to support social economic and local growth through innovation.
- ❖ To enhance accessibility, we've secured £60,000 in national funding for Banham Zoo to develop new, fully accessible Changing Places Toilets.
- ❖ To promote training and employment opportunities in manufacturing, we've launched the 'Make it in Thetford' initiative with Partners.
- ❖ We've completed the restoration of four of Swaffham's historic buildings with funding from the Heritage Action Zone

- ❖ To provide individuals and families who are homeless with a safe and secure place to stay, we've purchased new temporary accommodation units within our District.
 - ❖ Ensuring residents have a say in how the land within Breckland should be used in the future, we've successfully adopted an update to the District's Local Plan.
 - ❖ Acknowledging the impactful work in delivering mental health youth projects, we were nominated for a Norfolk Flourish Award, hosted by the Children and Young People's Strategic Alliance (CYPSA).
 - ❖ We've helped over 3,000 residents who've contacted us for Housing advice and helped over 150 households access temporary accommodation.
 - ❖ In recognition for supporting the health and well-being of residents, we won the Health and Social Care Award at the 2023 Local Government Chronical Awards. The award recognised work by the council, NHS, charities and partners to tackle health inequalities in Breckland.
 - ❖ Acknowledging our exceptional care and dog warden services, we received the RSPCA Platinum PawPrints award; the only Council in Norfolk to receive this accolade.
 - ❖ To maintain our area's cleanliness and having continued our commitment to reduce environmental crime and increased the maximum penalties, we are now ranked in the top 100 Councils for tackling fly tipping.
 - ❖ To support survivors of domestic abuse in the local community we've committed to continue to support and fund the Daisy Programme until 2026.
 - ❖ To promote mental well-being within the local community we've continued to grow our Mindful District Programme by adding a third village and a new training partner and trained over 300 mental health champions.
 - ❖ Aimed at fostering well-being among young people in the district, we've begun to deliver a new youth mental health programme through the Breckland Mindful District Partnership.
 - ❖ Providing access to fresh and affordable food options for our community, we've expanded the Breckland Mobile Food Store to three additional locations.
 - ❖ To provide financial assistance to those grappling with the aftermath of the devastating effects of Storm Babet, we've allocated grants and council tax and business rate relief.
 - ❖ To enhance leisure facilities, we've been granted planning permission to bring improved recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of Attleborough.
 - ❖ To continue to deliver services which support people who have experienced domestic abuse, declining mental health or financial hardship, we've invested £1.1M of council funding over the next 3 years.
 - ❖ To help local groups commemorate the upcoming 80th anniversary of D-Day, we've made a total of £25,000 available to celebrate and mark the historic event.
 - ❖ In addition to our annual contribution to Citizens Advice, we've strengthened our partnership by funding two Debt Advisors, further supporting their vital debt assistance services.
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Working 
Smarter

We put our residents and businesses at the heart of everything we do.

- ❖ To better manage the Council's business and ensure transparency for our residents, we've delivered a new suite of performance indicators and new performance framework.
- ❖ To help customers track their enquiry and utilise officer time effectively, we've launched a new case management system
- ❖ To ensure everyone can vote in an election, we undertook a successful 2023 annual canvas.
- ❖ We've launched an Amazon Alexa skill to help residents access information about local services more easily.
- ❖ To provide another way for customers to contact us and have their questions answered 24/7, we've developed and launched a telephone chatbot, an extension to our web-based resident service.
- ❖ Recognising our innovative ways to recruit and onboard our new employees, the council was a finalist in the Local Government Chronicle Annual Workforce Awards.
- ❖ To help seek new funding opportunities, we've created a new Corporate Strategy Team
- ❖ We've delivered training for our new intake of councillors on their duties and our new code of conduct.
- ❖ To enable our workforce to deliver exceptional services to our residents and businesses, we've delivered over 80 projects designed to enhance learning and development, culture & leadership and health and well-being.
- ❖ We've helped ensure occupancy of 97% of our commercial property portfolio.
- ❖ To develop skills of our own workforce and creating opportunities for local talent, we've supported over 20 apprenticeships across the Council.
- ❖ We've successfully delivered the 2023 local elections and onboarding of new Members.
- ❖ In recognition of how we develop our workforce and support their health and well-being we were finalists in two awards for the PPMA (Public Services People Managers Association) People Management awards.
- ❖ To ensure our top priority projects are delivered on time and on budget, we've created a new Corporate Projects Service.



Church Report 2024

Both Great and Little Fransham Churches are always open and there are monthly services alternating between the two Church's, the dates, times and nature of the services are in the monthly Magazine. With good attendance at Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas. More weddings have taken place recently partly due to Curds Hall Barn being a local wedding venue.

The Fabric of both Churches is good but obviously this is always ongoing.

The Parochial Church Council are again indebted to the Parish Council in the cutting of the churchyards, the new contractor has started well

The Reverent Miriam Fife has unfortunately been off on sick leave for the last three months. Also the team vicar is sadly leaving the Upper Nar Group in July.

Fransham Trustees 2024

The Fransham Relief in Need Charity distributed 17 grants to beneficiaries which helped with funeral costs, hospital transport costs living costs to parishioners of Great and Little Fransham. This is made possible from rent received from arable land within the parish.

FRANSHAM VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Fransham village hall has been undergoing a long period of renovation and is now ready, once again, to become a hub for the whole community. You will find good heating, a fully equipped Kitchen, new flooring and redecoration. All this set within a large green space with plenty of parking. It is available for hire for all manner of activities; think Birthday parties ,informal gatherings,discos.

The Village Hall Committee has held two very successful and well attended coffee mornings at which views were sought about potential uses for the hall . People came up with ideas which might either be attractive for whole village gatherings or to smaller special interest groups.

We have made progress in taking forward many of your ideas and offers of help in organising activities. We have a firm commitment to two whole village events in the Autumn. A village quiz, with tables of 6 or 8 in late September, a Harvest Supper in late October. (firm dates to follow) We are exploring with a local amateur dramatic group the idea of mounting a Christmas themed entertainment evening. We will be arranging a series of monthly craft afternoons where activities will include sewing and textile craft, including patchwork, embroidery knitting and crochet and flower arranging. Depending on levels of interest, and availability of tutors' we may develop specialist groups from these joint sessions. We already have people who are willing to lead such activities. We are currently exploring the idea of keep fit activities and will keep you informed as these plans develop.

Other ideas put forward at the coffee mornings include the formation of a village book reading group, a small choir/singing group, whist, bingo, bridge or dominoes. We would love to hear from anyone who would be willing to lead and coordinate any of these activities.



*Belong, believe, thrive, achieve.
Rooted in Christ, we learn, grow and flourish.*

The Governing Board has continued to work collaboratively with the Head teacher and staff, with many exciting, and new projects. Although the pandemic may seem in the distant past the legacies it has left behind for children's education, and their emotional and social wellbeing still remain, especially with the younger children. Mrs Long and her staff have continued to develop and provide learning and educational opportunities to enable them to flourish.

Developing the curriculum to be an Inspirational, Educational, Developmental and fun experience has been a priority. This in turn, aids the development of emotional and social skills that children need as they grow and look to the future. The Forest School has been a resounding success. The children love spending time out there and also around the wildlife area, encouraging and nurturing a love of nature. It also encourages the children to explore, imagine and develop ideas, as they are supported to explore and develop a confidence in themselves.

Work has continued to develop and embed the Vision and Christian ethos within the school and embedding the core values across the curriculum and the school. As the school is a Church of England school, they are subject to an inspection of collective worship and religious education every few years. These are known as SIAM (The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). The school was last inspected in 2017 and received a rating of Good and we are fully expecting to have a SIAMS inspection within the next couple of years.

Following the closure of Little Oaks last year, the School and the Governing Board had the opportunity to look at opening an on-site nursery working within the Early Years framework. The nursery opened last September and has been an enormous success. There were only a few structural changes that needed to be done to make this possible and we have a lovely bright well equipped, Teacher led nursery. It opened taking 3 years old, but is now taking those that are 3 in that term. We are also becoming a Special Resource Base for Speech and language. This will be a purpose-built building and will be run through the school. We are hoping this will open next year.

Enjoying school, being part of a family and being happy is an important aspect of the children's education. A positive environment has continued to be at the heart of the school. Improvements throughout the whole school have continued. All the windows have been replaced, helping with the energy efficiency. This is important as managing budgets is very tight. Once again thanks must go to Mrs Long and her very strong and dedicated team of staff for the continued growth and development of the school both spiritually and educationally.

Jane Barley

Chair of Governors