# OCTOBER 2026 COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY REPORT

***Serving Holt Town and the villages of Briningham, Brinton with Sharrington, Briston, Edgefield, High Kelling, Hindolveston, Hunworth, Letheringsett with Glandford, Melton Constable, Stody, Swanton Novers, Thornage with Little Thornage, Thurning and Wood Norton.***

**Devolution Latest**

You may have seen reports that the Government could change the date of the mayoral elections, currently scheduled for May 2028. No formal change has been announced so the position remains uncertain. Suffolk County Council has deferred its decision on re-consenting to devolution. The decision is currently planned for 12 November, although a proposal will be considered on 15 October to bring it forward to 10 November.

At Norfolk County Council (NCC) the proposals will be considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 21 October, ahead of a Cabinet member decision after that. This will provide wider democratic consideration before a decision is made.

**Household Hazardous Waste Days 2026**

Free Household Hazardous Waste Days will take place across Norfolk in autumn 2026, allowing residents to safely dispose of materials not accepted through kerbside collections or standard recycling centre services. Key points:

- Free for Norfolk residents, accepting hazardous household waste including paint, aerosols, antifreeze, fertilisers and drain cleaners.
- Only hazardous household waste will be accepted.
- Booking is required and opens eight days before each event.
- Events run from 8am to 4pm; early booking is advised as they are popular.

Autumn dates and locations

- Norwich South Recycling Centre – Friday 16 and Saturday 17 October.
- Dereham Recycling Centre – Friday 13 and Saturday 14 November.
- Hempton Recycling Centre – Friday 20 and Saturday 21 November.
- Norwich North Recycling Centre – Friday 27 and Saturday 28 November.

**Please check the website advice by going via your browser to www.norfolk.gov.uk/hazardouswaste before booking.**

But please note that the Council are intending to cut the service to just one day a year in future to save £200k in next year's budget assessment.

**More service cutbacks in store**

The October 5th cabinet meeting gave a flavour of what to expect in the 2027-28 Budget setting next February. A saving of £13 million over 3 years is being proposed by reducing both the demand for, and the cost of, adult social services by altering service providers; and

- saving £475k by reducing highway maintenance by 5%;
- spending £300k less on cutting highway verges;
- saving £225k by cutting back winter gritting on our roads and
- spending £100k less on our libraries.

**Free careers support via Jobcentres**

People across England can now access free careers advice alongside employment support through Jobcentres, making it easier to get help to find work, change careers, progress in work or build new skills.

The full range of support previously offered by the National Careers Service will be available through DWP, creating a more joined-up service for people at every stage of their career.

Support will be available to everyone, regardless of whether they claim benefits, and can be accessed online, over the phone, or through face-to-face appointments at Jobcentres, giving people a single place to access the advice and support they need to take their next step. Careers support can be accessed online via the Get Careers Information and Advice webpage, as well as through the freephone service on 0800 072 0288. Face-to-face appointments will be available in Jobcentres later this month.

**Crime and Policing Act 2026**

This new Act introduces a major package of reforms aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour, retail crime, knife crime, violence against women and girls, child exploitation and terrorism. It strengthens police powers, creates new criminal offences, increases online safety protections, introduces new Respect Orders for persistent anti-social behaviour, and includes measures that will affect local authorities, particularly in relation to anti-social behaviour, community safety and fly-tipping enforcement.

The Government has recently provided more information through a series of factsheets on the Government website explaining what each proposed measure does, why it was introduced and what impact it will have.

**B1110 Mill bridge near Thornage**

Pleased to say I continue to meet Highways' officers to promote road safety improvements with a priority system agreed back in August on both approaches to the bridge which has been damaged on two occasions in July and more recently in September. There is real concern of a serious risk of a fatal accident at this location. The Thornage Road Group formed by residents and the Parish Council are lobbying the County Council, Police, Crime Commissioner and District councillors for both Holt and Thornage to investigate possible measures to calm traffic through the village. We are starting to make some progress with a further meeting is planned for the 21 October.

**Scam alert - letters claiming to be from Norfolk County Council**

A letter claiming to be from 'Norfolk County Council' is being circulated. It states that it is informing the recipient about changes to Council Tax payments. The letter is a scam. Norfolk County Council is not responsible for collecting Council Tax payments in Norfolk because this is a function of our District councils instead.

The letter also includes a QR code that directs recipients to a fraudulent website and attempts to take payments.

Trading Standards is investigating the scam. Its advice is to be wary of claims made in unexpected letters. If you, or anyone you know, receives this or a similar letter claiming to be from Norfolk County Council about Council Tax payments, please ignore it and do not scan the QR code.

Scam letters can also be reported to Trading Standards through its partner, the Citizens Advice consumer helpline, on freephone 0808 223 1133. Any questions about Council Tax should be raised directly with the relevant district council.

**Planned Roadworks**

**Holt**

Emergency Notice Road Closure of Cley Road to facilitate leaking water main repairs (Anglian Water) (Ref: 7642-2616-4417-6324) 6/12 October

**Edgefield**

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (the "Order") (NTRO11579) affecting B1149 Holt Road from its junction with U14347 Hempstead Road for 506 metres southwards to undertake road surface patching by County Highways 21/22 October

**Brinton**

Owing to a burst water main the use by vehicles (of any class) of The Street from 370 metres northeast of its junction with Thornage Road for 30 metres northwards (the “Road”) in the Parish of Brinton will be temporarily prohibited/restricted.

The works promoter for this restriction/closure is Anglian Water. The closure/restriction is anticipated to take place from 23rd to 30th September 2026, but the Road may continue to be closed/restricted until the 13th October 2026 where the closure/restriction is still required beyond the anticipated dates.

If necessary, this Notice may be extended for an additional 21 days by further Notice and/or for a maximum of 18 months from the date this Notice is effective by further Order.

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