

Good evening, Chairman, Residents

My primary role as a councillor's is to represent my Beck Vale, Dickleburgh & Scole (SNC) ward and the people who live in it. I provide a bridge between the community and the council. As well as being an advocate for residents and signposting them to the right people at the council and to keep them informed about the issues that affect them. Hence why attend meetings such as this as well as Parish Council meetings throughout the year.

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<https://democracy.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=195>

A few helpful updates:

South Norfolk Council's 24/25 Budget

The Band D level of Council Tax was increased by £5 to £170.00 from April 2024. That rise will generate approximately £265,000 to support services.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/article/421/south-norfolk-councillors-have-agreed-the-budget-for-the-coming-year>

I happily supported this because of cross-party supplementary paper agreed in advance of the meeting.

This secured in summary:

- £145,548 to top-up the Leisure Support Reserve to £1m, to be used to support the leisure service £250,000 per annum for the next 4 years.
- £355,000 into the 'Household Support Fund', to double existing support for hard pressed families in 2024/25.
- £100,000 for the flood / ditch walker for another 24 months – With the Scrutiny committee to assess whether it is meeting its objectives by September 2024.
- An additional £100,000 from an earmarked capital receipt has also been allocated to expand the Community Action Fund across the district to £150,000 with an upper grant limit increased to £20,000 per application.

Big South Norfolk Litter Pick

South Norfolk Council's Big Litter Pick 2024 started on 1 March (to 31 May 2024) We are asking local schools, Parish councils and community groups to help us keep the district looking tidy.

In 2023, 1285 volunteers took part and collected more than 608 sacks of litter in our local communities.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/keeping-streets-clean/volunteer-litter-pick-area/3>

Play Streets Grant

Play streets (or 'playing out' sessions) are neighbour-led, short, road closures, creating a safe space for children to play freely together on their doorstep. Any street is eligible provided it is not on an active bus route.

Play streets typically allow children to play freely, without organised games or activities. In practice, this means children cycle, scoot, skate, chalk, skip, hopscotch, kick a ball around and make up games.

The grant offers up to £75 to communities who wish to take part in the Play Streets initiative.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-funding-3/play-streets-grant>

Be ready for the election on 2 May (Police and Crime Commissioner)

The period for nominations for anyone wanting to stand for election to the Police and Crime Commissioner opens on Wednesday 27 March 2024. Between 10am Wednesday 27 March and 4pm on Friday, 5 April, anyone who is eligible to, can submit the necessary paperwork to stand as a candidate in the 2 May election.

It is a requirement at these elections for all voters attending at polling stations to take with them one form of photo ID, such as a driving license, passport or bus pass. There is a Voter Authority Certificate available, free of charge, for those who don't have any of the prescribed types of ID. <http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

It is important to check now if you have one of the accepted types of ID and, if not, to apply now for a Voter Authority Certificate for free.

Whichever way you want to vote, you can't vote without first being registered as an elector. If you are not already registered, it only takes five minutes online at <http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

Community Action Fund

Our Community Action Fund provides one-off capital grants to community groups to enhance community facilities or projects. From April 2024 upto £20,000 can be awarded to any one scheme but grants of £5,000 are the most usual size. This year the total budget is £150,000 and will be shortly inviting bids from Parishes and local Groups. So if you're aware of capital proposals from parish organisations, environmental, sports or social clubs please ask them to call me. <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/community-action-fund>

Member grants

Finally, our popular scheme of ward member grants provides £46,000 to be spent on micro projects across the district. Each Councillor has £1000 to award to schemes with minimal paperwork and instant payment to support play groups, community cafes and other small-scale activities that make a big impact. More information here <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/members-ward-funding>

Best Wishes

Clayton Hudson

Local Member for Beck Vale, Dickleburgh & Scole

South Norfolk Council