

Wreningham Parish Council – 12th March 2024

District Councillor Report

Grants

Members ward grants will open again in April 24. Contact your District Councillors for further information.

Hethel Planning Applications

The major expansion of Lotus Cars' technology park could now be slowed down by planning issues. The development has hit a potential snag after Norfolk County Council's flooding and historic environment teams lodged issues with the proposals. The flooding department has called for an acceptable Flood Risk Assessment Drainage Strategy, alongside further information from Lotus on how it plans to ensure the expansion would not "adversely impact flood risk".

This comes amid a series of concerns raised about drainage issues in and around Hethel - including the impact of a 23-home development in Bracon Ash. The council's historic environment team also wants to investigate the land proposed for the site. A letter sent to South Norfolk Council's planning committee read: "There is potential for previously unidentified heritage assets with archaeological interest (buried archaeological remains) to be present within the current application site and that their significance would be affected by the proposed development.

Flooding on B1113

District Councillors are still active in attempting to resolve this, but to date we have still had no response from either County Councillor Daniel Elmer or Graham Plant, cabinet lead for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport. We are hoping we might achieve some sort of resolution in the near future however following an article published in the EDP on Friday 8th March following an interview with Ian Spratt, which highlighted your District Councillors concerns about the lack of response or action received so far.

Council Tax Increases

South Norfolk voted to increase Council Tax by £5 for a Band D property (3%) at SNC Council on Wednesday 21st Feb. Budgets for 24/25 were signed off on the same day. Higher interest rates and VAT changes have created a surplus for 23/24. All political parties agreed late amendments to allocate the surplus to service improvements including £350,000 to the Household Support, strengthening planning enforcement and additional resources to work with landowners on flood prevention.

'Norwich to Tilbury' Update

The formal consultation for this project is planned to start soon. For the latest information visit <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk> Their latest statement: The Offshore Coordination Support Scheme was announced by the government recently and will enable North Falls, Five Estuaries and Sea Link to look at coordinating their connections. This means that the long-awaited National Grid ESO review has now started – it will report on a variety of offshore options on March 6th 2024. Six of our representatives have attended round-tables and we will continue to lobby. The review will look equally at cost, technical deliverability, the environment and community.

Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber

Councillor Contact Details

Cllr. Jim Webber	jim.webber@southnorfolkandbraodland.gov.uk	07394 323215
Cllr. Ian Spratt	ian.spratt@southnorfolkandbraodland.gov.uk	07554 668337
Cllr. Bob McClenning	bob.mcclenning@southnorfolkandbraodland.gov.uk	07769 030926