



Newmarket TOWN COUNCIL

The Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket, CB8 8JP

Tel: 01638 667 227. E-mail townclerk@newmarket.gov.uk

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A MEETING OF THE NEWMARKET TOWN COUNCIL

to be held at

Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket, CB8 8JP

Monday 15th December 2025 at 7.15pm

or after the close of the Development and Planning Meeting, whichever is the later time

Councillors are hereby summoned to attend

for the purpose of transacting the business that follows

The meeting is held in public and the public are encouraged to attend and participate. Just occasionally matters such as contractual or staffing matters do have to be held in the confidential part of the meeting. This is a public arena, therefore anything you say including your name if given, may be published by the press, social media and in Council committee minutes.

Members of the public and press may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place if present at a meeting of the Council, but otherwise may:

- a. film, photograph or make an audio recording of the meeting;
- b. use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later;
- c. Report or comment on the proceedings in writing, during or after a meeting or orally after the meeting.

The Council will where possible facilitate such recording unless it is being disruptive. It will also take steps to ensure that children, the vulnerable and members of the public who object to being filmed are protected without undermining the broader purpose of the meeting

A G E N D A

1. **Welcome** - The Mayor to read the fire safety notice and announce that this meeting is being recorded and to ask whether anyone else intends to record the meeting
2. **Apologies** for absence
3. **Declaration of interests**
 - a) Councillors are invited to raise any declarations of interest concerning items on the agenda
 - b) To consider any requests for dispensation
4. **Minutes of the previous meetings held 24th November 2025**
 - a) To consider and adopt the minutes, as a true record of the proceedings
 - b) To consider any matters arising
5. **Public participation** – an invitation to members of the public to make representations to Councillors.
Resolutions can only be made on items on the agenda
Rules of public participation: no person may for longer than 3 minutes in total. The maximum time permitted for this item is 15 minutes. This is the only opportunity during the meeting for members of the public to address Councillors.
6. **Police Report** – to receive and note a report (verbal or written) from the PCT (Police Community Team)
7. **Councillor Reports** - to receive and note reports (if any) from County and District Councillors, Ward Reports and outside bodies reports from Town Councillors
8. **Announcements** - To receive the Town Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's Announcements (if any)
9. **Committee Meetings**
 - a) To receive the minutes and consider and approve any recommendations from the Development & Planning meetings held on 1st December 2025
 - b) To receive the minutes and consider and approve any recommendations from the Leisure Services meeting held on 1st December 2025
10. **Membership**
 - a. To note the newly elected members' committee preferences, if any
 - b. To note the newly elected members' Working Group preferences, if any
11. **2026/2027 Financial Year**
 - a. To approve the overall budget for the financial year 2026/2027 for Newmarket Town Council
 - b. To approve the precept for the financial year 2026/2027 for Newmarket Town Council

Distribute to the following for information:

County & District Councillors, The Press, Newmarket Town Council Website

C

12. Consultations

- a. **Government Consultation on LGR (Local Government Reorganisation)** – closes 11th January 2026
- b. **Community Governance Review – Parish and Town** – 17th December 25 – 13th February 2026

13. Correspondence

14. Date of the next Meeting – 26th January 2026

Signed: *CE Whitaker*

Cathy Whitaker, Town Clerk

Date: 9th December 2025



Newmarket

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Newmarket Town Council

held on Monday 24th November 2025 at 6:15 pm at the Memorial Hall

Attendance:

Councillor P Winter (Town Mayor)
Councillor M Anderson
Councillor J Clover
Councillor J Harvey (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor P Hulbert

Councillor J Jarvis
Councillor S Kavanagh
Councillor J McHugh
Councillor R Nobbs
Councillor C Revitt
Councillor K Yarrow

Also Present: C Whitaker Town Clerk, N Alecock - Deputy Town Clerk, J Ashton – Minute Assistant, Cllr Whittle – WSC, C O'Reilly – Events Manager as an observer, 1 Member of the Press and 4 Members of the Public.

Minute

- 25/11/1 Welcome**
The Chair read out the Fire safety notice and announced that the meeting was being recorded by the Minute Assistant and asked if anyone else intended to record the meeting.
- 25/11/2 Apologies for Absence – LGA 1972, Section 85(1) & (2)**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Berry, Borda, Crissall, Drummond, Hood and Starkey.
- 25/11/3 Declaration of Members Interests & to Remind Councillors of the Need to Keep up to Date Their Register of Member's Interests and to Consider any Requests Received for Member's Dispensation**
None noted. There were no requests for Member's Dispensation.
- 25/11/4 To Receive and Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 27th October 2025 and any Matters Arising.**
The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2025 were presented and Cllr Winter made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Nobbs. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:
- 25/11/4.01 Resolved**
That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2025 be adopted and signed as a correct record by the Town Mayor.
- There were no matters arising.
- The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 27th October 2025 were presented and Cllr Winter made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Yarrow. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:
- 25/11/4.02 Resolved**
That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 27th October 2025 be adopted and signed as a correct record by the Town Mayor.

There were no matters arising.

25/11/5 Public Open Session

A member of the public spoke to item 6 and was happy with the decision of the WSC Monitoring Officer regarding Cllr Drummond's breaches of the Code of Conduct for Councillors regarding recent correspondence. They pointed out that this was not the first time that Cllr Drummond has been found in breach of the code, citing a West Suffolk Council instance and requested that this be taken seriously, as community safety and inclusion must remain to ensure that Newmarket is a safe and welcoming place for all.

25/11/6 Breach of Code of Conduct by a Town Councillor

All Members had received the West Suffolk Council Monitoring Officer's report and Cllr Drummond had emailed a statement to all Members to explain his position on the matter.

The Mayor read out a statement giving the NTC view on this matter as follows:

"Many Councillors of Newmarket Town Council expressed that they were appalled by the tone of Councillor Drummond's emails recently whilst he responded to communications from a member of the public. As the Mayor of Newmarket, I believe that the tone of Councillor Drummond's communications regarding this matter is not what should be expected from an elected Member.

Newmarket Town Councillors are expected to fully comply with the Councillor's Code of Conduct and to uphold very high standards when communicating with the public.

The Council are encouraged to see that Cllr Drummond has now complied with the Monitoring Officer's request to apologise to the member of the public; whilst noting that initially he had stated that he would not.

Councillor Drummond also breached General Data Protection Regulation protocols by forwarding personal information to a third party; for which the relevant action has since been taken by the Council's Data Protection Officer.

Newmarket Town Council wishes to make very clear that the views expressed by Councillor Drummond in his correspondence were not the overall view of this Council and it wishes to sincerely apologise to the member of the public for the actions of Councillor Drummond in this case."

Cllr Harvey added that SCC is responsible for lampposts and it is illegal for flags to be put on them. However, SCC does not have the resource to remove them but will remove any whilst conducting lamppost maintenance.

The censure of Councillor Andy Drummond following a decision by the West Suffolk Council Monitoring Officer was considered. Cllr Winter made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Yarrow. A vote was taken as follows:

Votes For – 10
Votes Against – 1
Abstention = 0

With the majority of votes being for the motion, the following was agreed:

25/11/6.01 Resolved

That Cllr Drummond be censured for a breach of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

25/11/7 Police Report

The monthly report was presented and noted.

25/11/8 Councillor Reports

SCC – None noted.

West Suffolk Council (WSC) – Cllr Yarrow reported that the WSC Overview and Scrutiny Committee had reviewed the current sport facilities and there is only one indoor sports hall in Newmarket for 22,000 people, which is well below the National average. WSC and SCC are negotiating for a sports hub on the St Felix site but the proposed rear of the development location has produced access difficulties. Outdoor facilities are limited and the Newmarket Joggers are having to use the pavements around town. The Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan makes reference to this. Cllr Harvey stated that the reports at the O&S Committee are out of date and he added that other areas are being considered and he will update WSC.

Cllr Jarvis reported that the communal gardens on the Studlands estate will be maintained with the help of WSC Locality Budgets. Cllr Revitt requested that Newmarket Community Nature Reserved be involved.

Cllr Whittle – WSC - reported that he had met with WSC Officers for an update on the RPZ for Newmarket and the draft consultation will be issued soon to NTC. WSC and SCC are considering options for a recycling facility. There had been a Watercourse Day of Action and the waterway will need to be cleared regularly to remove fly tipping and to cut back the overgrowth along the route. During contact with the police they confirmed that the UK Terrorism Level is ‘substantial’.

Ward Reports – Cllr Harvey reported that he attended his first BID Board meeting on 18/11/25 and provided feedback on its website, the new App to monitor footfall, the need for new small units, the Christmas Lights event, a Reindeer Trail and Mystery Shopper scheme. 2026 would see the return of the Food and Drink Festival and the Pop-Up Shop is booked until June. The scaffolding on the Market Square – work is reported to be starting on 01/12/25. The BID are needing more Board Members.

Cllr Yarrow added that the Christmas Lights event had been well attended and complimented the organisers.

Cllr Jarvis reported that WSC are beginning to remove the Covid 2m stickers from pavements during its Action Days and he suggested that further Action Day activity might be carried out at Studlands.

Outside Bodies – None noted

25/11/9 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor reported that, in addition to attending committee meetings, working groups and other meetings, her activities included the following:

Book Number 50 2025 -2026

Minutes of the Meeting of Newmarket Town Council held on Monday 24th November 2025

Saturday 1st November- Attended the Sausage Festival to judge the best ‘Sausage Dog.’

Saturday 1st November- Attended the Model Railway at the Memorial Hall.

Tuesday 4th November- Planted Crocus bulbs with The Rotary Club and Children from St. Louis School near the gym on the Severs.

Saturday 8th November- A wreath was laid on behalf of Newmarket Town Council at The Rose Garden Remembrance Service at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Sunday 9th November- Laid a wreath at the War Memorial and attended The Remembrance Service at Tattersalls.

Tuesday 11th November- Laid a wreath and attended The Armistice Day Service at The War Memorial.

Friday 14th November- Attended the ‘Open Door’ AGM at The Catholic Church Hall.

Friday 21st November- Attended the Christmas Light Switch On and helped on ‘The Tree of Hope Stall.’

25/11/10 To Receive the Minutes and Consider and Approve any Recommendations from the Development & Planning Committee Meetings held on 3rd and 17th November 2025

The minutes and recommendations from the Development & Planning Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2025 were presented. Cllr Harvey made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Hulbert. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the minutes were adopted. There were no recommendations.

The minutes and recommendations from the Development & Planning Committee meeting held on 17th November 2025 were presented. Cllr Harvey made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Yarrow. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the minutes were adopted. There were no recommendations.

25/11/11 To Receive the Minutes and Consider and Approve any Recommendations from the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 3rd November 2025

The minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2025 were presented. Cllr Winter made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Harvey. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the minutes were adopted:

25/11/11.01 Resolved (C/25/11/4.01 Resolved)

That the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the Chair of the Community Services Committee.

25/11/11.02 Resolved (C/25/11/7.01 Recommendation)

That the Community Services budget for 2026/2027 at £352,360 be approved.

25/11/11.03 Resolved (C/25/11/8.01 Recommendation)

That 4 planters be purchased from Broxap and be installed outside the Turkomon Restaurant at £990 each - £3,960. That installation costs are to be arranged with

the Jockey Club.

25/11/11.04 Resolved (C/25/11/8.02 Recommendation)

That the installation of planters outside of the Jockey Club be deferred to investigate other options for the area further.

25/11/12 To Receive the Minutes and Consider and Approve any Recommendations from the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held on 17th November 2025

The minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 17th November 2025 were presented. Cllr Harvey made a proposal, seconded by Cllr McHugh. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the minutes were adopted:

25/11/12.01 Resolved (F/25/11/4.01 Resolved)

That the minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 15th September 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the Chair of the Finance & Planning Committee.

25/11/12.02 Resolved (F/25/11/6.01 Recommendation)

That the ratification of the schedules of payments for the period 01/09/2025 – 30/09/2025 and 01/10/2025 – 31/10/2025 (Cash Book 1 - 5) be received and adopted.

25/11/12.03 Resolved (F/25/11/9.01 Recommendation)

That the Finance & Policy budget for 2026/2027 at £153,200 be approved.

25/11/13 Committee Membership

It was noted that Cllr Kavanagh will be joining the Community Services and Leisure Services Committees and Cllr Revitt will be joining the Community Services Committee.

25/11/14 Correspondence

WSC – Community Governance Review Parish and Town Briefing Note – was noted.

25/11/15 Date of the next Meeting

Monday 15th December 2025 in the Memorial Hall at 7:15pm.

Meeting closed at 6:43pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Summary of Resolutions

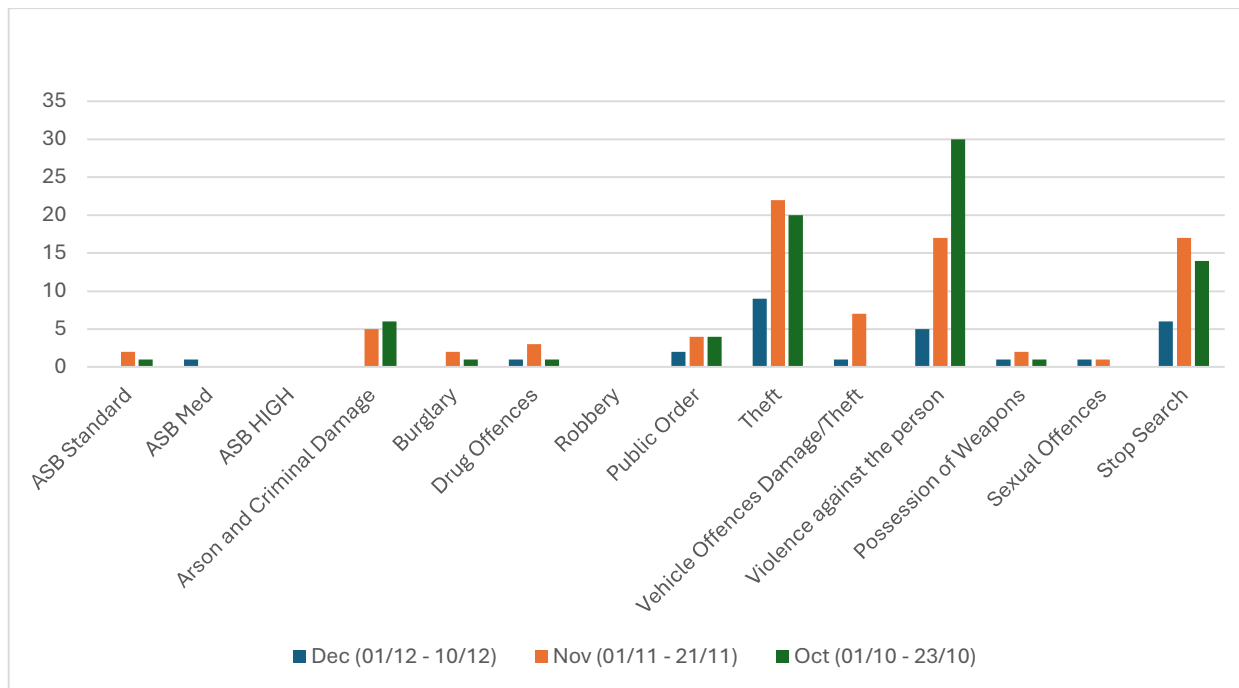
Resolution	Resolution Wording
<u>25/11/4.01 Resolved</u>	That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2025 be adopted and signed as a correct record by the Town Mayor.

<u>25/11/4.02 Resolved</u>	That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 27 th October 2025 be adopted and signed as a correct record by the Town Mayor.
<u>25/11/6.01 Resolved</u>	That Cllr Drummond be censured for a breach of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.
<u>25/11/11.01 Resolved</u> <i><u>(C/25/11/4.01 Resolved)</u></i>	That the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the Chair of the Community Services Committee.
<u>25/11/11.02 Resolved</u> <i><u>(C/25/11/7.01 Recommendation)</u></i>	That the Community Services budget for 2026/2027 at £352,360 be approved.
<u>25/11/11.03 Resolved</u> <i><u>(C/25/11/8.01 Recommendation)</u></i>	That 4 planters be purchased from Broxap and be installed outside the Turkomon Restaurant at £990 each - £3,960. That installation costs are to be arranged with the Jockey Club.
<u>25/11/11.04 Resolved</u> <i><u>(C/25/11/8.02 Recommendation)</u></i>	That the installation of planters outside of the Jockey Club be deferred to investigate other options for the area further.
<u>25/11/12.01 Resolved</u> <i><u>(F/25/11/4.01 Resolved)</u></i>	That the minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 15th September 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the Chair of the Finance & Planning Committee.
<u>25/11/12.02 Resolved</u> <i><u>(F/25/11/6.01 Recommendation)</u></i>	That the ratification of the schedules of payments for the period 01/09/2025 – 30/09/2025 and 01/10/2025 – 31/10/2025 (Cash Book 1 - 5) be received and adopted.
<u>25/11/12.03 Resolved</u> <i><u>(F/25/11/9.01 Recommendation)</u></i>	That the Finance & Policy budget for 2026/2027 at £153,200 be approved.

10/12/25

Attention: Council Meeting

Good evening - Please find as requested a graph.



Statistics reflect only 10 days into December month so of course not fully reflective.

Upcoming ASB review on current closure orders in place – update to follow

Additional officers/hours continue within Town Centre area(s) during December/Christmas Shopping.

I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas from the NEWMARKET Community Policing Team.

As always, I am happy for any actions to be raised from this meeting for me to address and report back at the next meeting should anyone have anything different, they wish to raise.

Socia Media - Follow us [@ForestHeathPolice](https://twitter.com/ForestHeathPolice)

Upcoming Events: [Newmarket](#) | [Your area](#) | [Suffolk Police](#) | [Suffolk Constabulary](#)

Street Meet every Tuesday 1000-1200 Guineas Shopping Centre

Thank you for your time.

Sgt Christopher BUTTON

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Item 8

Mayors Announcements

December 5th - Attended the Christmas Carols on the Severals

December 10th – Attended the Lord Lieutenants ‘Suffolk Together at Christmas’ at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

December 12th – Attended the Rotary Carol Concert at Tattersalls

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Newmarket

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Development & Planning Committee Held on Monday 1st December 2025 at 6.15pm

Attendance:

Councillor R Hood (Chair)
Councillor J Berry
Councillor J Harvey

Councillor P Hulbert
Councillor J Jarvis
Councillor J McHugh

Also Present: C Whitaker – Town Clerk, N Alecock – Deputy Town Clerk, J Ashton – Minute Assistant, C O'Reilly – Events Manager, Cllrs Revitt and Winter as observers and 1 Member of the Press.

	Minute	Action by
D/25/12/1	<u>Chair to Read the Fire Safety Notice and Announce that Proceedings May be Filmed or Recorded</u> The Chair welcomed everyone, opened the meeting, and read out the Fire Safety Notice and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded by the Minute Assistant.	
D/25/12/2	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Cllrs Drummond, Nobbs and Yarrow.	
D/25/12/3	<u>Declaration of Members Interests & to Remind Councillors of the need to keep up to date their Register of Member's Interests and to Consider any Requests Received for Member's Dispensation</u> Cllr McHugh declared an "other" interest in item 6b application DC/25/1767/FUL - 23 Park Lane. There were no requests for dispensations.	
D/25/12/4	<u>To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 17th November 2025 and any Matters Arising</u> The Chair presented the minutes of the Development & Planning Committee held on 17th November 2025 and Cllr Hulbert made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Harvey. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed: <u>D/25/12/4.01 Resolved</u> <u>That the minutes of the Development & Planning Committee held on 17th November 2025 be adopted and were signed as a true record by the Chair of the Development & Planning Committee.</u> There were no matters arising.	
D/25/12/5	<u>Public Open Session</u> No members of the public were present.	
D/25/12/6	<u>Planning Applications</u>	
D/25/12/6/1	<u>DC/25/1709/HH – Householder planning application – a. conversion of existing</u>	

garage into annexe b. two windows on side elevation – Granby Lodge, Granby Street, Newmarket. Cllr Berry made a proposal, seconded by Cllr McHugh. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

D/25/12/6.01 Resolved

The Committee requested that a condition be imposed to prevent any subsequent use as an HMO or separate rental and requested that the adjacent workshop is not permitted to store hazardous materials to ensure the safety of individuals. The Committee voiced no objection, subject to the property being used as per the application for occasional use by family and friends.

Cllr McHugh declared an “other” interest in the following application and left the meeting at 6.32pm.

D/25/12/6/2 DC/25/1767/FUL – Planning application – a. two storey side extension (following demolition of existing side extension) b. single storey first floor rear extension c. internal alterations to form a 13 bedroom HMO – 23 Park Lane, Newmarket. Cllr Harvey made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Hood. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

D/25/12/6.02 Resolved

The Committee objected due to overdevelopment of the site, lack of parking provision, inappropriate design adjacent to a conservation area and historic church, and potential additional noise and disturbance resulting from it being used as a 13-bedroom HMO.

Cllr McHugh returned to the meeting at 6.39pm.

D/25/12/6/3 DC/25/1813/TPO – TPO 04(2012) tree preservation order – one horse chestnut (marked T1 on plan and T19 on order) fell – 3 Arborfield Drive, Newmarket. Cllr Hood made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Harvey. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

D/25/12/6.03 Resolved

The Committee made a holding objection until a report and advice from the Tree Officer is received. The Committee actively encourages responsible tree management and object to the felling of healthy trees.

D/25/12/7 Amended and Deferred Plans

D/25/12/7/1 DC/25/1627/TPO – TPO 13(1991) tree preservation order – two beech (marked T2 and T3 on plan and within A4 on order) fell – Woodland End, Snailwell Road, Newmarket. Cllr Hood made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Berry. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

D/25/12/7.01 Resolved

The Committee expressed gratitude to the Tree Officer for their prepared report and supported the Tree Officer’s recommendation without reservation for suitable replacements to be planted.

D/25/12/8 Planning Appeals

D/25/11/8/1 AP/25/0037/STAND – Permission in Principle – one dwelling – Pernataen, Snailwell

Road, Newmarket (DC/25/0552/PIP) – was noted as being in progress.

D/25/12/9 East Cambs Planning Applications

The East Cambs Weekly Lists were noted.

D/25/12/10 To Receive Results of Applications as Determined by West Suffolk and Plans Withdrawn

West Suffolk Planning Determinations received during weeks commencing 10/11/2025 & 17/11/2025.

Cllr Winter joined the meeting as an observer at 6:44pm

Applications	Description	Address	WS Decision	NTC Decision
DC/25/1638/TCA	Trees in a conservation area notification - one London Plane (T1 on plan) reduce crown all round by 3 metres to previous pollard point to contain size of tree.	Planting Beds Adj Clocktower Roundabout High Street Newmarket Suffolk	No objections	No objection
DC/25/1630/TCA	Trees in a conservation area notification - one beech (marked T1 on plan) one elm (marked T2 on plan) fell.	Hedge Line Snailwell Road Newmarket Suffolk	No objections	Objected
DC/25/1628/TCA	Trees in a conservation area notification - one beech (T1 on plan) fell.	Street Record Snailwell Road Newmarket Suffolk	No objections	Objected
DC/25/1634/TCA	Trees in a conservation area notification - one robinia (marked T1 on plan) reduce in height to leave at 4.5 metres above ground level, two sycamore (marked T2 and T3 on plan) overall crown reduction by two metres.	Bedford Lodge Hotel 11 Bury Road Newmarket Suffolk	No objections	No objection
DC/25/1462/HH	Householder planning application - a. two storey front extension (following demolition of existing front extension) b. raising height of existing roof to create additional storey c. two dormers on front elevation and d. one dormer on rear elevation.	10 Birdcage Walk Newmarket	Approved	No objection
DC/25/1457/HH	Householder application - single storey rear extension.	313 Exning Road Newmarket Suffolk	Approved	No objection
DC/25/1510/HH	Householder planning application - a. replacement windows b. replacement of first-floor tile hanging with cladding to front elevation c. single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory).	81 Edinburgh Road Newmarket Suffolk	Approved	No objection
DC/25/1511/HH	Householder planning application - single storey rear extension.	5 Princess Way Newmarket Suffolk	Approved	No objection

DC/25/1630/TCA and DC/25/1628/TCA – Deputy Town Clerk was asked to investigate why these applications were approved when the Committee had objected.

D/25/12/11 Delegation Panel Decisions

None noted.

D/25/12/12 Licensing

None noted. A request on an update on the Cherry Tree application was made to the Deputy Town Clerk.

D/25/12/13 Enforcement

An update report was presented, discussed and noted.

An update was requested on the action taken at the Exning Road car wash.

Deputy Town Clerk was asked to write to WSC Planning regarding 11 St Mary's Square that had an extension without planning permission in 2017.

Sunnica Solar Farm - Cllr Hood attended the Sunnica Alliance meeting and Cllr Berry made a proposal, seconded by Cllr McHugh. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

D/25/12/13.01 Resolved

That delegated powers be given to the Chair, Deputy Chair and Town Clerk to draft a letter to Sunnica expressing concerns regarding the danger of batteries and hazardous substances.

D/25/12/14 Working Group Reports

There were no reports.

D/25/12/15 Correspondence

None noted.

D/25/12/16 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 15th December 2025 at the Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed 7:06 pm.

Signed _____ Date _____

Summary of Resolutions/Recommendations

Resolution/Recommendation	Resolution/Recommendation Wording
<u>D/25/12/4.01 Resolved</u>	That the minutes of the Development & Planning Committee held on 17th November 2025 be adopted and were signed as a true record by the Chair of the Development & Planning Committee.

<u>D/25/12/6.01 Resolved</u>	The Committee requested that a condition be imposed to prevent any subsequent use as an HMO or separate rental and requested that the adjacent workshop is not permitted to store hazardous materials to ensure the safety of individuals. The Committee voiced no objection, subject to the property being used as per the application for occasional use by family and friends.
<u>D/25/12/6.02 Resolved</u>	The Committee objected due to overdevelopment of the site, lack of parking provision, inappropriate design adjacent to a conservation area and historic church, and potential additional noise and disturbance resulting from it being used as a 13-bedroom HMO.
<u>D/25/12/6.03 Resolved</u>	The Committee made a holding objection until a report and advice from the Tree Officer is received. The Committee actively encourages responsible tree management and object to the felling of healthy trees.
<u>D/25/12/7.01 Resolved</u>	The Committee expressed gratitude to the Tree Officer for their prepared report and supported the Tree Officer's recommendation without reservation for suitable replacements to be planted.
<u>D/25/12/13.01 Resolved</u>	That delegated powers be given to the Chair, Deputy Chair and Town Clerk to draft a letter to Sunnica expressing concerns regarding the danger of batteries and hazardous substances.

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Newmarket

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee **Held on Monday 1st December 2025 at 7:15pm**

Attendance:

Councillor J McHugh (Chair)
Councillor J Borda
Councillor J Harvey
Councillor P Hulbert

Councillor J Jarvis
Councillor S Kavanagh
Councillor P Winter

Also Present: C Whitaker – Town Clerk, C O'Reilly – Events Manager, J Ashton – Minute Assistant, N Alecock – Deputy Town Clerk and Cllr Revitt as observers and 1 Member of the Press.

L/25/12/1 Chair to Read the Fire Safety Notice and Announce that Proceedings May be Filmed or Recorded

The Chair opened the meeting, read out the fire safety notice and confirmed that the meeting is being recorded by the Minute Assistant.

L/25/12/2 Resignation of Chair for the Leisure Services Committee

Cllr Harvey tendered his resignation as Chair of the Leisure Services Committee and this was received by the Committee.

L/25/12/3 Election of Chair for the Leisure Services Committee for the Municipal Year to May 2026

Cllr Harvey nominated Cllr McHugh, seconded by Cllr Hulbert. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

L/25/12/3.01 Resolved

That Cllr McHugh be elected as the Chair for the Leisure Services Committee for the Municipal Year to May 2026.

Cllr Harvey left the Chair and Cllr McHugh took the Chair.

L/25/12/4 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Nobbs.

L/25/12/5 Declaration of Member's Interests and to Remind Councillors of the Need to Keep up to Date Their Register of Member's Interests and to Consider Any Requests Received for Members Dispensation

None noted. There were no requests for dispensation.

L/25/12/6 To Receive and Confirm for Accuracy the Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee Meeting Held on Monday 6th October 2025 and Any Matters Arising

Members received the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 6th October 2025 and Cllr Harvey made a proposal seconded by Cllr Borda. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

L/25/12/6.01 Resolved

That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 6th October 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the outgoing Chair (Cllr Harvey) of the Leisure Services Committee.

Matters arising:

L/25/10/12.01 Recommendation – the new noticeboard for the Memorial Gardens is on order and in production.

L/25/12/7 Public Open Session

No members of the public were present.

L/25/12/8 To Receive the Accounts

The draft accounts for November 2025 were received and noted.

L/25/12/9 Budget 2026/2027

Town Clerk presented the Leisure Services Budget for 2026/2027 and explained that the 42% increase was due to the high maintenance costs for the Memorial Hall this year with having to replace the lift, the heating system, refurbish the public conveniences and repair leaks and malicious damage. Relevant Earmarked Reserves are in need of replenishment and a plan for saving for future year's repairs and maintenance for the ageing assets within our care.

The Leisure Services budget for 2026/2027 was considered and Cllr Winter made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Borda. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

L/25/12/9.01 Recommendation

That the Leisure Services Budget for 2026/2027 at £ 303,494 be approved.

L/25/12/10 Chairs

A report on the current condition of the chairs in the Memorial Hall and possible replacements was considered. Cllr Winter made a proposal seconded by Cllr Hulbert. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

L/25/12/10.01 Recommendation

That the replacement of 5 trolleys and 150 chairs at £9,480.50 for the Memorial Hall be approved.

L/25/12/11 Working Group Reports for LS

There were no reports. Cllr Kavanagh requested that she join the Environmental Working Group. This will be noted at the Full Council meeting on 15th December.

L/25/12/12 Events Update

The Events Manager presented the report, including feedback from the Railway 200 Model Railway Exhibition on 31st October and 1st November. This had been well attended and was something for the wider community. Christmas at the Sevels is imminent – 4th to 7th December with a wide provision for

Book number 15 2025 -2026

all ages.

Plans for the Newmarket Earth Day on 25th April 2026 are underway with a meeting of the Working Group planned for early January.

2026 Events schedule was discussed: January – Railway 200 commemorative event/Town Trail launch – 30th January. February – half-term drop-in craft event.

March – suggestion of a possible Easter event. April – Earth Day. June – MLF Twinning visit weekend of 21st June AND Lexington Singers / Newmarket Community Choir joint choral event on 26th June. July/August – Summer Entertainment holiday children's events. September – Grenadier Guards conferment of Freedom of the Town and march/concert. October – possible Halloween children's event. November – Remembrance Day/Armistice Day 2026. December – Christmas 2026,

The Committee thanked the Events Manager for all their work.

L/25/12/13 Correspondence

None noted.

L/25/12/14 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 2nd February 2026 at the Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 7:54pm.

Signed _____ Date _____

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation	Recommendation Wording
<u>L/25/12/3.01 Resolved</u>	That Cllr McHugh be elected as the Chair for the Leisure Services Committee for the Municipal Year to 31st March 2026.
<u>L/25/12/6.01 Resolved</u>	That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 6th October 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the outgoing Chair (Cllr Harvey) of the Leisure Services Committee.
<u>L/25/12/09.01 Recommendation</u>	That the Leisure Services Budget for 2026/2027 at £ 303,494 be approved.
<u>L/25/12/10.01 Recommendation</u>	That the replacement of 5 trolleys and 150 chairs at £9,480.50 for the Memorial Hall be approved.

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RECOMMENDED Budget Summary 26/27

Newmarket Town Council

Committee	Income	Expenditure	Net Expenditure
Finance & Policy	£ 12,100.00	£ 165,300.00	£ 153,200.00
Human Resources	£ -	£ 311,942.00	£ 311,942.00
Community Services	£ 66,200.00	£ 418,560.00	£ 352,360.00
Leisure Services	£ 28,000.00	£ 331,494.00	£ 303,494.00
Development & Planning	£ -	£ 11,000.00	£ 11,000.00
Total	£ 106,300.00	£ 1,238,296.00	£ 1,131,996.00

	2023/2024	2023/2024	2024/2025	2024/2025	2025/2026	2025/2026	2026/2027
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Projected Spend at 31/3/2026	RECOMMENDED Budget
Committee							
Finance & Policy	£ 121,352.00	£ 81,961.00	£ 141,388.00	£ 92,638.00	£ 145,400.00	£ 56,180.00	£ 153,200.00
Human Resources	£ 277,108.00	£ 258,147.00	£ 288,125.00	£ 217,770.00	£ 311,942.00	£ 261,350.00	£ 311,942.00
Community Services	£ 227,979.00	£ 229,867.00	£ 291,373.00	£ 161,599.00	£ 326,565.00	£ 250,801.00	£ 352,360.00
Leisure Services	£ 191,130.00	£ 198,635.00	£ 196,144.00	£ 219,241.00	£ 213,064.00	£ 201,279.00	£ 303,494.00
Development & Planning	£ 5,500.00	£ 998.00	£ 6,000.00	£ 2,020.00	£ 10,000.00	£ 7,500.00	£ 11,000.00
Total	£ 823,069.00	£ 767,612.00	£ 923,030.00	£ 693,268.00	£ 1,006,971.00	£ 777,110.00	£ 1,131,996.00
% increase from previous year	15.08%	12.15%			9.09%		
Taxbase	5655.60	5716.10	5814.88		5814.88		5959.16
Band D	£145.53	£161.48	£173.17		£173.17		£179.89
							BAND D REAL-TERM EFFECT
							£6.72
							increase of 3.88% to residents
							TOTAL INCREASE
							5% £ 7,800.00
							0% £ -
							8% £ 25,795.00
							42% £ 90,430.00
							10% £ 1,000.00
							12.42% £ 125,025.00

Supplier ID:
502577

**Application for Parish/Town Council
Precept 2026/27**

Please complete the following and return to the Chief Financial Officer by 22 January 2026

PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL OF:

Newmarket Town Council

Please select your Parish/Town Council from drop down list

Date of Parish/Town Council Meeting, approving the precept

15th December 2025

Contact details of the Parish/Town Clerk:

Name: Cathy Whitaker

Address: King Edward VII Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket, CB8 8JP

Tel No: 01638 661777

E-Mail: townclerk@newmarket.gov.uk

Bank Details:

Sort Code: 60-83-01

Account Number:

20394770

The amount requested by the above mentioned Parish/Town Council by way of precept from West Suffolk Council for the year 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 is as follows:

The 2025/26 figures below are the figures submitted by Parishes/Towns in January 2025 and are included for information purposes only.

	2025/26		2026/27	
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income
Administration	£ 430,842	£ -100	£ 457,742	£ -12,100
Allotments	£ 2,000	£ -900	£ 2,000	£ -900
Arts Centres	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Cemeteries	£ 75,200	£ -52,000	£ 77,110	£ -52,000
Civic Costs	£ 5,500	£ -	£ 4,500	£ -
Community Events	£ 62,500	£ -1,000	£ 67,000	£ -1,000
Disused Churchyard/Memorials	£ 15,200	£ -	£ 15,850	£ -
General Services	£ 244,295	£ -13,130	£ 288,600	£ -13,300
Grants to Other Bodies	£ 21,000	£ -	£ 15,000	£ -
Leisure Services/Sports Facilities	£ 57,000	£ -7,000	£ 53,370	£ -7,000
Other Expenses	£ 10,000	£ -	£ 11,000	£ -
Street Lighting	£ 35,000	£ -	£ 35,000	£ -
Village Hall/Memorial Hall/Other Property	£ 142,564	£ -20,000	£ 151,124	£ -20,000
Transfer to (+ve)/from (-ve) Reserves	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Net Expenditure	A	£ 1,006,971		£ 1,071,996
Parish Precept	B	£ 1,006,971		£ 1,071,996
Tax Base	C	5,814.88		5,959.16
Town Council Tax Band D	B ÷ C	£ 173.17		£ 179.89
Increase/-Decrease				£ 6.72
Percentage Increase/-Decrease				3.88%

Signed by:-

Chair of Parish/Town Council: Date:

Parish/Town Clerk: Date:

Explanatory Notes for Completion of Precept Application

- 1 Please select your Parish/Town Council from the dropdown list. This will prepopulate the 2025/26 comparator figures and the Taxbase figures, which we have included to assist you in completing your 2026/27 application
- 2 Please enter your 2026/27 budget figures in the yellow boxes only. Do not try to overwrite any of the other boxes. Please use whole numbers only and enter expenditure as positive figures and income as negative figures.
- 3 Please sign and date the application before returning by email (scanned signatures are acceptable) to :
michelle.rolls@westsuffolk.gov.uk
- 4 If you have any difficulties with completing the form or need any clarification, please email Michelle at the above email address.

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Item 12a

Government consultation on LGR in Suffolk

Dear all,

Today the government launched its consultation on local government reorganisation (LGR) in Suffolk. This will run for seven weeks until 11th January.

LGR presents the biggest change to local government in Suffolk for over 50 years – and the consultation gives stakeholders and residents the chance to have their say.

Suffolk community leaders from sectors including health, social care, business, agriculture and tourism, have all backed the One Suffolk plan for a single unitary council to deliver all county-wide and local services. Watch this video to hear directly from some of our advocates: [Voices of One Suffolk](#)

One Suffolk would create key benefits, including:

- Empowering communities by offering powers and funding to town and parish councils where these councils express a desire for additional responsibilities. Creating a new town council for Ipswich to enhance democratic representation.
- A new deal for market towns, including Ipswich, backed by a £40 million capital investment fund, and a review of car parking charges and markets conducted in consultation with traders, businesses and representative bodies.
- Building a strong, flourishing, and resilient local economy that serves all residents, businesses, and communities.
- A stronger voice for Suffolk through effective collaboration with the new mayor, focusing on clear investment priorities that maximise benefits.

The alternative proposal, from Suffolk's district and borough councils, would see Suffolk split into three arbitrary council areas, putting key services such as social care at serious risk and costing millions to set up.

Their plan does not address the enormous costs associated with splitting up these critical services, and poses clear risks to the most vulnerable people in Suffolk. Not only would three councils cost significantly more than a single unitary for Suffolk - it would also cost more than the current two-tier system.

What happens next?

We are confident that One Suffolk is the right approach for Suffolk and will deliver greater support and influence for town and parish councils – and we have been contacted by a number of you who share this view.

It is vital that government hears directly from you – so please do engage with the consultation and have your say in this momentous decision for Suffolk. You can take part here: [Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Norfolk and Suffolk - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Citizen Space](#)

Thank you once again for your engagement and for the constructive way you have helped to shape this important work. If you would like to be involved in our One Suffolk proposal, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council

Nicola Beach, Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council

The background of the entire page is an aerial photograph of a rural Suffolk landscape. In the foreground, there are vibrant green fields, likely corn, with visible tire tracks. A small cluster of houses and a large farm complex with several buildings and a tall silo are situated in the middle ground, surrounded by trees. Beyond the farm, the landscape opens up into vast, golden-brown harvested fields. In the far distance, a line of trees separates the fields from a horizon where several wind turbines are visible against a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Smarter Simpler Better One Suffolk

Town and parish council summary

Suffolk and proud

Suffolk is a place that we are proud to call home. It's a historic county with understated charm and character. But it's also a place that's on the cutting edge of technology and industry.

Suffolk is diverse and vibrant – an exciting mix of larger urban areas, market towns, coastal communities and rural villages. Its people come from all walks of life. Yet despite this variety, we have a single, strong and binding sense of identity and belonging. This is evident in things like Suffolk Day, the Suffolk Show, the University of Suffolk, Suffolk-wide local media and the good old Suffolk Trinity (comprising the Suffolk Punch horse, the Redpoll bull and the Suffolk Sheep). There is even a Suffolk way of saying things that lives on through the ages – the blockbuster film ‘The Dig’ had this in spades!

We're home to nationally and internationally significant businesses,

from clean energy, ports and logistics, digital technology, advanced manufacturing, the horseracing industry and tourism - not to mention some of the best food and drink you can buy. Farming in Suffolk is deeply woven into our local economy and lives.

Together, Suffolk is one of only a few areas in the UK that has consistently been a net financial contributor to national wealth and prosperity.

Suffolk is home to a network of 372 town and parish councils and 56 parish meetings. These local bodies form the bedrock of community democracy – giving residents a voice, shaping local priorities and driving grassroots action. However, many councils have told us they feel undervalued and overlooked, work they do. That must change. We need a strong, respectful partnership that can deliver together.



Market Hill in Sudbury

The big benefits of One Suffolk

One Suffolk will not only be smarter, simpler and better, it will also offer greater financial resilience, sustainability and be connected to and reflective of the communities it serves.

This is a rare opportunity to bring together those services that make a real difference to Suffolk's people, places and businesses. Key services, such as planning, parking, transport, environmental health, licensing and economic development are better delivered in a more efficient and streamlined way.

This will help to create safer, cleaner and more attractive environments for businesses to thrive and residents and visitors to enjoy.

There are many tangible benefits to **One Suffolk**, but these are some of the most significant:

Communities empowered to lead

One Suffolk will empower communities by offering more powers such as setting speed limits, grass and verge cutting and planning. Where councils want to do more, and feel they can make more of a difference, **One Suffolk** stands ready to support them. This will be achieved through partnership working, supported by 16 new area committees – as successfully rolled out in Wiltshire. These committees will bring together

councillors from the new council, town and parish councils, residents and groups like charities and businesses. Their job is to assess what matters most in each area – things like roads, planning, safety and employment – and make sure local voices are heard. For town and parish councils, this means having a stronger voice, with tangible decision-making and funding powers and greater opportunity to



An aerial view of Framlingham Castle

work together with others to improve their community.

Easy to access, locally based, named staff that work face to face is key - especially in areas like highways where relations and trust need to be built and maintained. This will give a voice to communities with clearer accountability, stronger local leadership and more responsive service design.

A proactive highways service

The savings **One Suffolk** creates means we can revitalise Suffolk's highways service so it can say "yes" more often – acting swiftly, communicating clearly and delivering results. It needs a senior leadership team that is committed to being visible, respectful and accessible – engaging openly with businesses and communities to drive progress together. **One Suffolk** will be a responsive community partner that wants to get things done right first time.

Unified, consistent and locally shaped planning

Suffolk would be better served by having a single and unified planning framework that delivers greater consistency, efficiency and strategic alignment. Parish councils told us during our initial engagement sessions that they wanted more say and control over local planning decisions. We will deliver this with new powers for Town and Parish councils including the devolution of minor development control functions over things like house extensions and minor changes to existing buildings. This reform will be guided by evidence, shaped by local engagement and implemented with care to preserve community identity and local knowledge. The goal is to build a planning system, including local planning committees with councillors who know the area, that is not only faster and more consistent but also smarter, more responsive and better aligned with Suffolk's long-term ambitions.

£40 million new deal for market towns

Our market towns are among the jewels in the crown of Suffolk, but high streets nationally are struggling and need help. To drive local economic growth, we propose our market towns – from the smallest to the biggest – have access to a £40 million capital investment fund. Working in consultation with traders, businesses and representative organisations, a review of car parking and town centre markets across the county would be held. **One Suffolk** will focus on local economic priorities identified by local communities. Our residents' survey was clear that access to towns, bars, restaurants, shopping and retail is important.

Low Council Tax and more financial resilience

Improved financial strength will enable the new unitary council to free up public money for frontline services – like highways and bin collection – and keeping Council Tax as low as possible. We know that people who live in Suffolk will want to see and feel improvements from day one of the new authority. That's why our plan is for all the different Council Tax rates to be harmonised to the lowest current level in Suffolk (this is the Mid Suffolk area) in its first year. Based on band D homes, this would put back in your pockets between £17 and £245 a year.

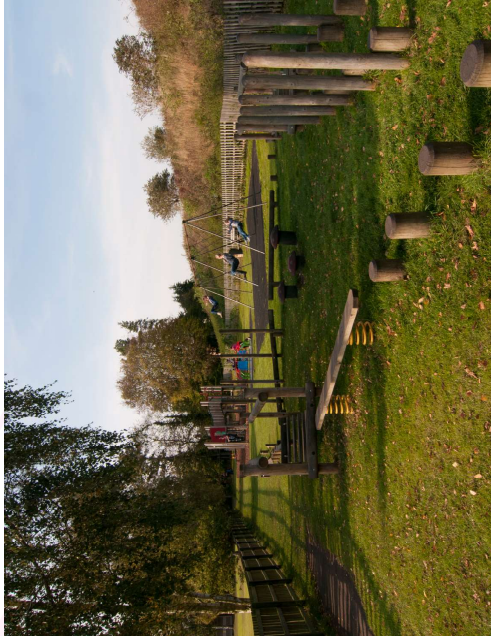
A modern, tech-driven innovative council

One Suffolk will mirror businesses in the county – using technology and innovation to save money and prepare for future challenges. This approach will make best use of staff, improve accessibility and support informed decision-making around council finances and resources. This frees up

our staff to spend more time working directly with you – how a council should work.

A resilient and growing local economy

Suffolk needs a strong, flourishing and resilient local economy that serves all residents, businesses and communities. To achieve this, planning, housing, transport, environmental health, licensing and economic development need to work together better. **One Suffolk** will ensure these are delivered in a more efficient and joined-up way, making it easier for businesses and entrepreneurs. A centralised economic development team will champion local enterprise, attract investment, promote tourism and work proactively with partners such as the Chamber of Commerce, Business Improvement Districts and Destination Management Organisations.



Playground at Clare Country Park

A strong voice for Suffolk and its future

Soon, Suffolk and Norfolk will have a new mayor, so Suffolk will be better served by a strong and unified voice to speak up for the county. By working closely with the mayor, **One Suffolk** will also ensure that Suffolk's diverse communities and areas are celebrated and that investment is strategically directed to enhance connectivity between places, people and businesses. This partnership will focus on identifying clear investment priorities that maximise the benefits of devolution. This transformation is not simply about structural change; it is about unlocking the full potential of Suffolk so that businesses and residents can benefit. **One Suffolk** is committed to collaborating with residents, businesses and stakeholders to ensure that the county remains vibrant, sustainable and fit for the future.

A new approach grounded in partnership

The **One Suffolk** plan is built on a truly collaborative relationship with town and parish councils. Our proposed new model of governance will recognise the diversity of councils across Suffolk – some well-established and experienced, others still developing – and will offer tailored support accordingly.

- This new relationship won't be distant or imposed, nor ad hoc or infrequent. Instead, it will be based on genuine partnership, face-to-face and with ongoing dialogue and flexible support that reflects the ambitions and capacity of each council.
- Our commitments to you
 - We have developed a bespoke support package to empower town and parish councils, which includes:
 - a **Partnership Charter**, formally recognising the role of local councils and creating a new level of respect for them, their voice and their experiences in local decision-making.
 - **bespoke training** for councillors and clerks on relevant topics – for example safeguarding, AI, and data security
 - **technical and digital** support, including help with website

development to standardise how information is shared with the public

- **guidance on funding**, including how to find and apply for grants
- **direct access** by phone and email to dedicated town, parish and locality team contacts
- the right to request **officer attendance** at local meetings
- access to **shared services**, including favourable rates for printing, catering, IT procurement and more.
- We also propose a new town council for Ipswich to provide the same level of local representation as the rest of Suffolk, while ensuring retention of our county town's historic identity and civic heritage.

Opportunities for more influence and responsibility

Many councils also expressed interest in taking on more influence and responsibility, where appropriate. In response to feedback, including from SALC, we have developed an initial list of services and assets that could be devolved to councils with the desire to do more. This will be a completely voluntary process.



Houses in Needham Market

Assets	Services
• Cemeteries and church yards • Memorials • Crematoria • Public toilets • Local parks • Open spaces • Sports grounds • Swimming pools • Leisure and arts centres • Play areas • Roadside verges and other small open spaces	• Minor highways functions and public rights of way • (e.g. speed limits, gritting) • Minor development control functions • Soft estate (e.g. grass cutting and weeds) • Fly-tipping clearance • Street cleaning • Community transport • Community safety • Neighbourhood watch • Footpath lighting • Community grants • Isolation/volunteering/befriending initiatives • Partnering in local tourism initiatives • Partnering in local climate change initiatives • Street naming • Licensing (e.g. event notices, street trading)

A proposal shaped by town and parish councils



A street in Aldeburgh

The **One Suffolk** proposal has been developed following the most extensive resident and stakeholder engagement Suffolk County Council has delivered in the past decade. This included two public surveys (one of which received 8,189 responses from across every part of the county), over 60 face-to-face and online events with town and parish councils, voluntary and community groups, businesses and residents all fed into our proposal.

One of the most significant findings from this work is how much people identify with being from Suffolk, the importance of meeting local needs and support for streamlining public services.

Your feedback has shaped this approach. Through widespread face-to-face and online engagement events, we heard concerns about:

- loss of local representation and knowledge due to fewer councillors (reduction from 308 county and district councillors to 140 under **One Suffolk**)
 - urban priorities overshadowing rural voices
 - poor communication with county and district councils and a desire for more direct, face-to-face engagement
 - a bureaucratic and unresponsive planning system that often ignores town and parish input
 - parish councils feeling under-resourced and fear that LGR will increase responsibilities without adequate support
 - how savings will be used and whether Council Tax harmonisation will be fair
 - centralisation of services and loss of local access.
- Each of these concerns has directly influenced the design of the **One Suffolk** model, and our commitment is to continue listening and talking as it evolves.

Our business case has support from people across Suffolk, including leaders in the NHS, business and culture sectors. You can pledge your support too at www.onesuffolkcouncil.co.uk

The most detailed, realistic and local plan

To create the best and most realistic plan, we've used up-to-date, Suffolk-specific local information and data – like council budgets, population figures and staffing costs. Everything has been thoroughly checked and double-checked – with support from experts from professional service firm Grant Thornton.

We have made a conscious decision to be cautious when predicting how much money can be saved, because we don't want to over-promise and under-deliver, as has been the case elsewhere in the country when they have gone through this process. For example, when we've modelled possible savings, rather than looking at what LGR plans from other parts of the country promised, we looked at what they actually achieved. Real life, real understanding, real outcomes for residents.

Saving taxpayers' money

Our detailed analysis of local data, using real life examples from elsewhere in the country, shows that having one council will **save** £78.2 million in the first five years and £39.4 million each year thereafter. In contrast, setting up three councils would cost an additional £145.3 million in the first five years. In short, it would be cheaper to stay as we are than move to having three councils!



Eye Church

Table 01: Summary of costs and savings from three options: local government reorganisation in Suffolk

	One unitary council (£m)	Two unitary councils (£m)	Three unitary councils (£m)
Total annual benefit	£39.7m	£21.1m	£14.3m
Five-year break up costs	£0	-£67.6m	-£135.2m
Savings in first five years	£78.2m	-£48.0m	-£145.3m
Annual savings after five years	£39.4m	£7.3m	-£13.1m



Racehorse training in Newmarket

Three councils, same old story

Suffolk's district and borough councils have also submitted an LGR proposal to the government, in their case to create three councils covering Suffolk.

To be fully informed, you should read their plan - but there is a big problem with it. To come up with their financial analysis and savings figures, they have used promises contained in business

cases and reorganisation plans from elsewhere in the country - not the actual savings that have been achieved. Their plan admits this and it means there is massive doubt around the savings they promise.

Nothing is more important than protecting the most vulnerable in our county, but their plan for delivering

social care is dangerous. Splitting up social care risks creating a postcode lottery of services depending on where you live, makes it harder for councils to pay a fair amount for the care it buys for residents and reduces the chance of making big countywide investment in new technology. Fragmenting social care risks disrupting critical public services that will affect the very people who need stability the most - vulnerable residents.

We firmly believe that their business case lacks robust evidence.



Two ladies looking out to sea in Felixstowe

Support for One Suffolk

The **One Suffolk** proposal is being supported publicly by leaders from a broad range of different industries. These include the tourism, business, health, social care and agriculture sectors. Some of these people have voiced real concerns with the alternative proposal to split Suffolk into three unitary authorities.



More information and next steps

This summary boils down the full 313-page business case, which is available to read on www.onesuffolkcouncil.co.uk

The government is now considering the plan and will decide whether or not to include it in a public consultation in the coming months. We hope you will take part when the time comes.

If you want to keep up to date on **One Suffolk** and the government's consultation, you can subscribe to our fortnightly newsletter at www.onesuffolkcouncil.co.uk/newsletter

To all Town Councils
in West Suffolk

Contact: CW/sec
Direct Dial: 01284 757001
Email: cliff.waterman@westsuffolk.gov.uk

BY EMAIL

Date: 1 December 2025

Dear Colleague,

Have your say on the future of local democracy in Suffolk

The Government is consulting on a reorganisation of local government in Norfolk and Suffolk. This will see the current county, district and borough councils abolished and replaced with unitary authorities in 2028.

The Government is keen to hear the views of all those interested in these proposals, including local residents, town and parish councils, residents' associations, businesses and the voluntary and community sector. As such, it has asked councils including West Suffolk and your own council to use our existing networks to bring the consultation to the attention of local people and organisations.

As you will be aware, the district and borough councils in Suffolk are proposing three local unitary authorities – 'Suffolk to the Power of Three' – and I am pleased to attach an electronic copy of a leaflet which explains the key points of our submission and how to take part in the consultation. In the next few days we will also be sending you paper copies of the leaflet to share with your councillors and/or make available in your offices.

You can find out more about the Suffolk to the Power of Three proposal and how to have your say on our dedicated website: www.threecouncilsforsuffolk.org.

As you will also know, Suffolk County Council has proposed a one unitary solution called 'One Suffolk' which you can read at www.onesuffolkcouncil.co.uk.

Responses to the consultation must be made via the Government's online form. This can be found at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) website: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government->

Cliff Waterman
Leader West Suffolk Council

West Suffolk House • Western Way • Bury St Edmunds • Suffolk • IP33 3YU

Phone 01284 757001 • Email cliff.waterman@westsuffolk.gov.uk
www.westsuffolk.gov.uk

[reorganisation/norfolk-suffolk/](#). The Government is consulting on both Suffolk and Norfolk proposals together, but you can just give comments on Suffolk if you wish.

The consultation will run until **11 January 2026**, and I would strongly urge your council and councillors to take part in their own right as well as promoting it to your local residents.

Government has indicated that decisions on which proposal to implement could be announced by March.

If you have any questions or would like any additional consultation materials, please don't hesitate to contact communications@westsuffolk.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Waterman', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Cllr. Cliff Waterman
Leader, West Suffolk Council

Will the Three Councils proposal **save money?**

Yes! Having three councils will save money compared to the current six councils, and it will also enable investment in services.

We have worked closely with specialist accountants KPMG, to analyse the current budgets for all six councils in Suffolk, alongside national evidence and the costs of change.

Savings in first 5 years: £106 million

This is an amalgamation of savings delivered through economies and efficiencies, use of technology, harmonising services etc.

Annual savings after 5 years: £34 million

These are the ongoing savings every year after the first five years. £20m of this will be invested in services.



As well as saving money, Three Unitary Councils For Suffolk means:

- Councils with a real understanding of their communities with the capacity to tailor services to local needs to drive better outcomes.
- Councillors who are rooted in their communities understand the issues that matter and are able to do something about them.
- Councils that are big enough to deliver and local enough to care about services that work for you.



Find out more & take part in the consultation – scan the QR code or visit threecouncilsforsuffolk.org

Proposed by Suffolk's district and borough councils –
**Babergh District Council, East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council,
Mid Suffolk District Council and West Suffolk Council.**

A one unitary solution known as One Suffolk is being proposed by Suffolk County Council. You can find more about it at onesuffolkcouncil.co.uk



Now is the time to have a say on the future shape of our local democracy in Suffolk

Proposed by Suffolk's district and borough councils –
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Find out more & take part in the consultation – scan the QR code or visit threecouncilsforsuffolk.org

Suffolk's borough and districts are proposing to Government that there should be three unitary councils for Suffolk, delivering all council services.

For residents, Three Councils will:

- Make decisions more quickly, and tailored to meeting the needs of different towns and villages
- Be simpler, more clearly accountable and provide greater value for money
- Provide local people with more direct access to officers and councillors
- Deliver high quality services with a local focus, investing finances and resources where they are needed most
- Be local accountable and responsive
- Listen to residents' needs and ensure their voices are heard.



Three local councils working together, listening to residents' needs and ensuring their voices are heard.

For businesses, Three Councils will:

- Form a powerful lobby to deliver the infrastructure needed for prosperity
- Focus on local business growth and innovation to create real opportunities
- Deliver the services your business needs more efficiently
- Be there to help your business problem solve, from funding to location making – right where you are.
- Provide direct access to councillors and decision making



Three local areas playing to their economic strengths.



Three strong local voices championing their communities

Three local areas playing to their natural economic strengths

+

Three local strategies for investment where it's actually needed

=

That's Suffolk to the **power** of **three**

Consultation on the Proposal from Suffolk County Council

Consultation for one unitary council:

1. **Suffolk Council:** Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, and West Suffolk

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests a council that is based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed council will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed council is the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed council will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the council in this proposal will support devolution arrangements, for example, the establishment of a strategic authority?

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

8. If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-7 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on this proposal.

Text box to add further comments

9. I confirm that I have not included any information that identifies an individual in the free text box.

Yes

Consultation on the proposal from Babergh District Council, East Suffolk District Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, and West Suffolk District Council

Consultation for 3 unitary councils:

1. **Western Suffolk:** West Suffolk (plus 21 parishes from Mid Suffolk), and Babergh (less 31 parishes).
2. **Central and Eastern:** Mid Suffolk (less 29 parishes), and East Suffolk (less 25 parishes).
3. **Ipswich and Southern Suffolk:** Ipswich (plus 31 parishes from Babergh, 8 parishes from Mid Suffolk, and 25 parishes from East Suffolk).

This proposal is accompanied by a request for boundary change to split existing districts between new unitary councils. Please answer the questions on the proposal including the modifications. We will also ask you an additional question on whether you think there is a strong justification for these splits.

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?

dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

6. *To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements, for example, the establishment of a strategic authority?*

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

7. *To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?*

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

8. *If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-7 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on this proposal.*

Text box to add further comments

9. *This proposal is accompanied by a request that the Secretary of State considers boundary change. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal sets out a strong public services and financial sustainability justification for boundary change?*

Dropdown answers	-- Please Select --	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither
agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	

10. *If you would like to, please use this free text box to explain your answer to question 9.*

Text box to add further comments

11. *I confirm that I have not included any information that identifies an individual in the free text boxes.*

Yes

Community Governance Review Parish and town briefing note

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, 'principal councils' are responsible for parish governance arrangements and can review the arrangements through a Community Governance Review (CGR) process. Legislation requires that principal councils ensure that community governance within the area:

- reflects the identities and interests of the communities in the area
- is effective and convenient and takes into account any other arrangements for the purpose of community representation or engagement in the area.

CGRs provide councils with an opportunity to make changes to community governance arrangements to ensure that parish and town councils provide for cohesive communities, improved community engagement and better local democracy, and result in improved effective and convenient delivery of local services.

West Suffolk Council carried out a CGR in 2021 to 2022, prior to the elections to parish and town councils in May 2023, and there has been interest from parish or town councils for potential governance changes ahead of the next elections in May 2027.

Subject to approval at a full Council meeting of West Suffolk Council (the council), the next CGR process will formally start in December 2025, and parish and town councils will be invited to put forward any issues that they wish to be considered and resolved as part of the review process. The CGR will consider the following aspects of community governance arrangements for parishes:

- the names and styles of any existing parish council
- the number of councillors to be elected to any existing parish council
- any grouping arrangements or mergers
- the warding arrangements of any existing parish council, the name of wards and the number of councillors to be elected for any such ward.

Due to local government reorganisation and the work to develop interim warding arrangements for unitary local government, this review will not consider any requests involving changes to external parish boundaries. Proposed amendments to parish ward boundaries will also not be considered where the proposed change is not coterminous with a West Suffolk district ward or Suffolk county division boundary. If a parish or town council would like a review of its boundaries at a future CGR, they are asked to submit the details so that they can be held on record for a future review.

The review will not automatically mean there will be changes but will examine whether there is a case for change. As part of the review the council will test views and assess what solutions are the right ones to pursue with each individual parish.

The timetable for the CGR is included in full below and parish and town councils wishing to take part in the community governance review process will be invited to submit their requests from **17 December 2025 to 13 February 2026**.

Parish and town councils may wish to think about issues or small anomalies that could be considered as part of the CGR so that they can develop their submissions in advance of the review commencing in December. The requirements for submissions are listed below:

- The request must state the parish or town area.
- The request must define the purpose of the community governance request and the proposed change.
- For grouping or merging arrangements, the request must be paired with a request from the other parish council.
- For any styling requests, proposals must include reference material.
- It is advised that councils include as much detail as possible in the reasoning behind the request and any evidence of community support for a proposed change.

Indicative timeline and key stages

Stage	Action	Dates
Authorisation	Council resolves to undertake CGR terms of reference approved. Task and finish group established.	Council 16 December 2025
Commencement	Notice of review published.	17 December 2025
Stage One	Consultation with stakeholders – initial submissions invited on future arrangements in accordance with terms of reference.	17 December 2025 to 13 February 2026
Stage Two	Consideration of submissions received. Draft recommendations prepared.	March 2026
Stage Three	Draft recommendations to be considered by Council and approved for consultation.	24 March 2026
Stage Four	Consultation with stakeholders on draft recommendations. Final recommendations prepared.	April 2026 to June 2026 (three months)
Stage Five	Final recommendations to be considered by Council with resolution to make a reorganisation order.	Council September 2026 (date to be confirmed)
Stage Six	Reorganisation order made.	As soon as practicable after publication of final recommendations

Any reorganisation order made following a CGR should, for administrative and financial reasons (for example, setting up a new parish council and arranging for its first precept), take effect on 1 April following the date on which the order is made. Electoral arrangements should come into force at the next elections to any new parish council following the making of the order.

Key considerations for the areas which can be reviewed at the upcoming CGR

Parish names and alternative styles for parishes

The council will endeavour to reflect existing or historic place names and will consider any ward names proposed by any local interested parties. The council will be mindful of Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 with regard to changing the name of a parish and subsequent notification, and to Sections 87 and 88 of the 2007 act and related guidance.

Alternative styles for parishes were introduced by the 2007 act which could replace the 'parish' style – community, neighbourhood or village. Town status continues to be available to a parish (Section 247 of the Local Government Act 1972) but, for as long as a parish has an alternative style, it will not be able to have the status of a town and vice versa.

At the request of a parish, the council, as principal authority, can change the name of a parish to reflect the style adopted.

If an existing parish is under review, the council will make recommendations as to whether the geographical name of the parish should change, but it will be for the parish council or meeting to resolve whether the parish should have one of the alternative styles or retain the 'parish' style.

Council size (number of councillors)

The minimum number of parish councillors that a council can have is five. A quorum for a parish council is three or a third, whichever is the greater number.

National research guidance suggests the following levels of representation for parish councils:

Electorate	Councillor allocation
Less than 500	5 to 8
501 to 2,500	6 to 12
2,501 to 10,000	9 to 16
10,001 to 20,000	13 to 27
Greater than 20,000	13 to 31

Government guidance is that each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to population, geography and the pattern of communities. The council will pay particular attention to existing levels of representation and existing council sizes which have stood the test of time.

In considering requests to change the number of councillors on any individual parish council, the council will review the electoral history for the parish, including the number of contested elections that have been held, the number of vacant seats following normal parish elections (every four years) and the history of co-options (that is, has the parish council been able to fill vacancies).

Grouping parishes

Two or more parishes can be grouped under a common parish council. This can be an effective way of ensuring parish government for small parishes that might otherwise be unviable as separate units, while otherwise guaranteeing their separate community identity.

The council recognises that the grouping of parishes needs to be compatible with the retention of community interests and notes the government's guidance that 'it would be inappropriate for it to be used to build artificially large units under single parish councils'.

Proposals involving the grouping or splitting of existing parishes have the potential to be controversial issues unless all parties are in local agreement and there is already a consensus. Therefore, any suggestion of grouping parishes will be looked at if there is a strong will from the parishes involved and that the parishes themselves collectively make the proposal at stage one of the review.

Where there is a request to form or amend a group of parishes, the council will also consider the number of councillors to be elected to the common parish council by each of the constituent parishes. The council will take into account considerations of being equitable in a similar way to the allocation of councillors in warded parishes.

Parish warding arrangements

The council is required to consider the following points when deliberating whether a parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections:

- whether the number or distribution of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient
- whether it is desirable that any area, or areas, of the parish should be separately represented on the parish council.

The government's guidance is that warding of parishes may not be justified for largely rural areas based predominantly on a single centrally located village. Conversely, warding may be appropriate where a parish encompasses several villages with separate identities or where there has been urban overspill at the edge of a town into a parish.

In considering parish wards, the council will ensure that electoral equality is retained (the principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as is possible). This will be achieved by keeping the councillor to elector ratio similar across any warded areas.

Proposed amendments to parish ward boundaries will not be considered where the proposed change is not coterminous with a West Suffolk district ward or Suffolk county division boundary.

Information and contact details

Community Governance Review guidance and information from past reviews are available on the West Suffolk Council website: <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr>

For more information about the CGR process, please email

CGR@westsuffolk.gov.uk

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