

Spring 2024 Newsletter from Framingham Earl Parish Council



The Norwich Fringe Project has undertaken some further work to improve the “Dell” area at the top of Long Road and Pigot Lane. We are bidding for a grant from the district council to put together a management plan for the area which will test what options we have to make this a facility more people can enjoy.

As a parish council, we now have a legal responsibility to consider biodiversity in the work we do. This means we must have policies which consider biodiversity and include these aspects when we review planning applications and in how we ask work in the village to be performed. This might mean, for example, that some verges and grass areas are left unmown at certain times of the year to encourage insects and pollinators. We might also ask for any external security lighting to be on a timer and not directed skywards as there is strong evidence to suggest that light pollution does impact negatively on wildlife.

Our volunteer litter-pickers continue to work hard to keep the streets as clean as they can. If you're aware of any badly affected areas, please do let us know. Towards the end of last year, the One Stop shop removed their litter bin from outside their premises and unfortunately the nearby council bin on the village green has often overflowed as a result. If you can take your litter home with you that does help us enormously to keep the area tidy.

Our budget request for 2024/25 has now been submitted to South Norfolk District Council. Inflation has impacted on the cost of services we run for the parish but we will always try to make sure our budget is carefully managed. We do not yet know the percentage increase you will see for the parish on council tax bills but we do expect any increase to be no more than a few pence per week for a Band D council taxpayer. South Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County Council costs make up the bulk of the annual council tax bill, alongside charges for the police and social care.

We have had the bench on the footpath near St Andrew's Church refurbished with help from the local Men's Shed. On the 11th November we also laid a poppy wreath on the grave of a World War 1 soldier who is buried in the churchyard at St Andrew's.

In our last update we mentioned that flooding is a long-standing issue and the recent wet weather has unsurprisingly caused issues. It's therefore vital that all drainage ditches are kept clear. It is nearly always the responsibility of the landowner adjacent to the ditch to keep it clear whether or not the title deeds or any covenants mention this specifically. Issues caused by the blockage in a ditch near you may not be apparent but could be affecting another resident some distance away so please keep ditches running freely if you can.

We will almost certainly have a general election this year and there will also be an election for the Norfolk Police Commissioner in May. At both these elections, as with the local elections last year, you will need to take photo ID with you if you intend to vote in person. Passports and driving licences are the most common documents people take with them but bus passes and blue badges will also do. There is a list of acceptable documents on the SNDC website as well as details about how to get a “voter authority” certificate if you do not possess any acceptable means of identification.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/elections/voter-id>

We publish news and updates on our Facebook and Twitter accounts. You can learn more about what we do, our councillors and the minutes of all our meetings on our website (<https://framinghamearlpc.wixsite.com/framinghamearlpc>).