

Councillor Update Sept 19th

Norfolk County Council Updates

Helping to improve Norfolk's recycling service

Norfolk County Council's annual Recycling Centre Survey is now open until 18 October 2026. It seeks views from both users and non-users to inform future improvements to the service.

Feedback from the previous survey led to practical changes, including improved booking arrangements for Blue Badge holders, vape recycling at every site, and the addition of coffee pod recycling and acceptance of UPVC windows and doors at the county's seven main centres.

Responses from people who do not currently use a Recycling Centre are particularly valuable, as they can help the council understand barriers, unmet needs and opportunities to make the service more accessible.

The survey link for you and residents is with residents, parish/town councils and community groups: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/RecyclingCentres2026/

The Big Conversation on Care

The Big Conversation on Care is a national public conversation inviting people across England to share their views and experiences to help shape the future of adult social care.

In Norfolk, this aligns closely with our ongoing transformation of Adult Social Services. We are working to help people live their best life by focusing on strengths, prevention, stronger relationships and joined-up support in communities.

Residents can now vote on their preferred proposals that have been suggested, helping to identify popular suggestions that receive broad support from the population and workforce.

You can find out more and vote at [The Big Conversation on Care](#).

National Updates

Common Ground Award - community grant funding

Community and voluntary organisations can apply for grants to improve local places and help bring people together.

The Common Ground Award 2026 to 2027 will fund buildings, facilities, equipment and other long-term improvements for eligible voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in England.

Individual organisations can apply for between £20,000 and £50,000. In exceptional cases, applications of up to £100,000 may be considered where there is strong evidence of need and likely benefit. Groups of organisations applying together can

Further details and information on how to apply are available in the [Government press release](#).

Grants to support community energy projects

Local authorities and community energy groups across the UK are being given new opportunities to develop their own renewable energy projects, following the [launch of a £30 million funding programme](#) from Great British Energy (GBE).

The investment is the first tranche of a wider commitment of up to £1 billion. The initiative is designed to support more than 1,000 community and locally led clean energy schemes, ranging from solar panels on public buildings to village-owned wind farms and hydroelectric projects.

The funding includes the [GBE Community Fund \(£20 million\)](#), which is now open, and a new [GBE Partnerships Grant \(£5 million\)](#).