

Progress report

August has given me a welcome break to catch up with family and have a week's holiday, as well as getting some academic research completed and some more started. I now have a brief patch of trying to make progress with Council stuff, before I go to the USA for a week in the middle of September for an academic research meeting that I am speaking at, at Berekeley in California.

Current work in the parishes includes working with the residents of Shimpling to try to deal with an issue with their footpath (part of the Boudicca Way for part of it) that is legally supposed to be open to motor vehicles, despite many attempts to restrict it to non-motorised usage.

I am pleased to hear that the diversion for Gissing Footpath 6 is now up and running, and the footpath officer will be visiting next week to check that it is all compliant so that she can sign off the legal paperwork, which will finally regularise the situation there.

Also on my radar are some problems with traffic caused by the diversions and closures associated with the Long Stratton Bypass, but that seems to have resolved now that local people know what to do.

The big issue, which is energy parks and infrastructure, continues to bubble just under the surface. I got a number of challenges and responses submitted to the various planning consultations earlier in late July and early August.

The next Full Council meeting has been delayed due to the Council not having received the required information from the government about the promised funds in the devolution deal (which had been supposed to be sent before the August recess). The September Council is scheduled to discuss devolution and local government reorganisation. The meeting will now be on 25th September. As a result of this change of date I will be able to attend and vote at the meeting, since I will be back (God willing) from the USA.

New community fund

A reminder that I have two local member funds, one for capital costs for highways/footpaths/nature spaces and ecological initiatives and one for costs (including running costs) for community activities and creative initiatives that make your place a happy place where people meet and are supported. For the former, please go through your parish council for highways issues. The grant won't stretch to fully funding legal changes (speed limits etc) but I may be able to contribute if you have part of the funds from private sources or parish funds. For funding for ecology or woodlands etc, and for the community fund, the group organising the activity can contact me directly. The community fund is for grants between £200 and £2,500 to support projects that promote things like social inclusion, volunteering, and community engagement. Church groups qualify if they serve the community. Larger grants require matched funding, but there is support for this via a crowdfunding scheme. Please ask me for a leaflet, or you can find details and how to apply on the county council website [here](#). Anyone with an eligible project should contact me on Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk.

Info from County Council

Recycling Centre survey

There is a survey for users to give their views on the County's Recycling Centres. The link is here: [Shaping Norfolk's Recycling Centres: Customer satisfaction survey 2025](#)

National Information

Childhood vaccinations

The UK Health Security Agency has issued an urgent warning ahead of the start of the new school year, about the low vaccination rates among children starting school this year, and the risks of serious dangers to immunity and health. Please encourage parents to get their children vaccinated with all the boosters that they need to have before school. Low uptake rates lead to resurgence of diseases that can kill or disable children and adults for life.

Contact me

Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk. See also my Facebook page [here](#).

Catherine Rowett

28th August 2025