

Spring

Long Stratton News

WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2024 EDITION

Spring is here and with it some very wet weather. We have been working with the Local Lead Flood Authority, the District and County Councillors and members of the public to understand why Long Stratton is prone to flooding and what we can do to mitigate further flooding. This is a work in progress and I will continue to update you all as more information comes to light.

The bypass work has commenced and has seen 4 roads been permanently closed for the duration of the build, Hall Lane, Parkers Lane, Edges Lane and Church Lane. They will be inaccessible to all including walkers. The anticipation is that the bypass will be delivered by summer 2025 however this will be reliant on weather conditions and as such we are hoping for a dry summer to allow the works to progress. There will be information in the Town Council Pavilion which will be updated regularly with the progress the bypass has made.

Diane Woodham has made the difficult decision to step down, she has been a Councillor for many years and the Town Council would like to thank her for her service to Long Stratton. We do currently have a vacancy at the Town Council, if you are interested please come to the next Town Council meeting on May 13th at 7pm in the Pavilion.

We would like to welcome Katrina Thompson to the Council and we look forward to working together.

Finally the summer event will be held on the 6th July on the playing field, the team are working hard to ensure that there is plenty to see, play and do and we hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Long Stratton Town Council Chairman, *Kelly Lunness*.

MEET YOUR COUNCIL

Chairman

Councillor

Kelly Lunness

Vice-Chairman

Councillor

Mat Pochin

Councillor

Andrew Lansdell

Councillor

David Willis

Councillor

Katrina Thompson

Councillor

Helen Dickerson

Councillor

Judith Baker

Councillor

Louise Mundford

Councillor

Robin Ciorra

Councillor

Susan Smith

Councillor

Justin Harris

Councillor

Florence Morimont

Councillor

Vacancy



Long Stratton Town Council

Pavilion, Manor Road Playing Fields, Manor Road, Long Stratton,
Norwich, NR15 2XR

Tel: 01508 530524

Email: office@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.longstrattoncouncil.info

May 2024

Youth Worker Update

Anastasia, Long Stratton's new Youth Worker has been extremely busy over the last few months meeting up with many people, groups, schools, businesses and the local Police.

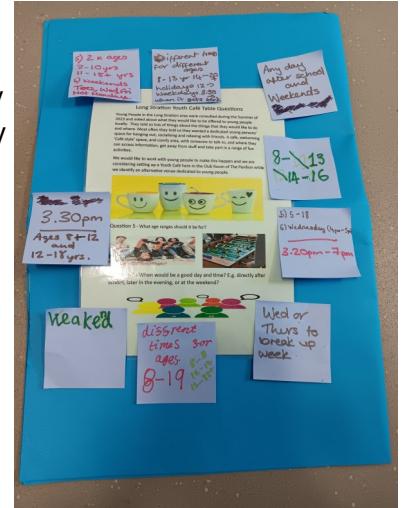
February Drop-In Youth Café Session

It was great to meet some young people, parents and other interested adults who popped in to say hello at the 'Meet the Youth Workers' event at the end of February at The Pavilion in Long Stratton during the half-term break. As the weather was very wet we decided to stay indoors where it was warm and dry and offer a taster of what we could offer as a drop-in 'Youth Café'. There was an opportunity to enjoy some creative activities, including badge making and bead jewellery, whilst chatting and enjoying a fully loaded hot chocolate and snacks. We also asked young people attending for their views on:

Whether setting up a Youth Café at the Pavilion was a good idea?

What they'd like to be offered and what equipment was needed?

What age ranges it should be offered to and when?



Easter Break Drop-In Youth Café Sessions

37 young people attended the drop-in Youth Café sessions during the Easter break across three sessions open to young people 8-11 years on Tuesday 9th April, followed by two sessions back to back for 11-16 years and then 16+ years on Wednesday 10th April. Activities included making chocolate nest cakes, decorating (and eating) eggs, playing UNO, pool, table-tennis and giant jenga; although some young people just wanted to come, hang out with their friends and enjoy the drinks and snacks on offer. Comments on the sessions included;

- It was fun
- Liked the food and drink
- Tasty snacks
- Pretty cool
- Good time with each other
- Would recommend



And there were also several suggestions for activities made for future sessions, which we will be making use of when we open our planned weekly (term-time) session, hopefully starting in mid-May.

If you are interested in volunteering as a member of staff, to support the development of informal youth activities in Long Stratton please get in touch. Anastasia's normal working days are: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Tel: 07743 938147 e-mail: anastasia.twigg@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk



This years Community Summer Event is being held on Saturday 6th July 2024 on the Manor Road Playing fields. We are really looking forward to bringing the community together again for another afternoon of fun and entertainment.

Plans in the making include a giant inflatable obstacle course for the children and a huge inflatable football dartboard!

If you would like a stall please get in touch with Jessica Lawton at office@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk for further details.

Also, volunteers are very much needed and appreciated, so please do let us know if you'd be available to help us out at all in any way, thank you!

Long Stratton Town Council received 50% Parish Partnership Funding and were able to purchase an additional SAM2 machine (Speed Awareness Monitoring).

This additional machine will be used in conjunction with our other SAM2 device to monitor vehicles using back roads, roads joining the A140 and near to the schools. This is to help reduce anti-social driving and speeding in Long Stratton as requested by residents who contact us often regarding dangerous stretches of road with speeding motorists.



This information will be used to inform the Norfolk Constabulary regularly so that further support / action can be sought. Regular reports are published on the website.

2024/2025 Annual Precept



As the Council tax bills have been received, I wanted to take this opportunity to break down the increases for you. No one, including the Councillors who made the decision, want to pay more Council tax, however at times, in order to deliver essential services this cannot be helped. The Councillors are all volunteers so there is no financial gain to themselves in increasing the Precept, in fact they will also have to pay the additional rate the same as the rest of the Long Stratton community.

The budget for the coming year was discussed at length at multiple meetings before the final amount was officially agreed.

The first step is to receive the tax base from South Norfolk District Council. This is the amount of Council Tax Band D properties within Long Stratton. In 2023-24 the tax base was 1432 properties. The amount of money requested from South Norfolk District Council (known as Precept) was £213,942 which is then divided between the 1432 properties giving a Council Tax requirement of £149.40.

In 2024-25 the Council Tax Band D properties was reduced to 1420 which meant that by keeping the Precept the same the Council was already seeing an increase in levy on taxpayers increase to £150.66.

The second step is to establish which contractors and regular suppliers were increasing their rates. All businesses and individuals providing a service to Long Stratton Town Council are facing the same challenges the community are, all increased their prices. For the services that are unknown to the Council, the Council's Finance Officer used an average of the known rises.

Third step is to calculate the income that the Council receives, this income primarily comes from hiring the Council Pavilion and is based on the hires from 2023-24. This is not guaranteed income as hirers can find new venues and therefore it has to be treated with caution when calculating the budget.

Fourth step is to calculate the difference between the income and expenditure anticipated based on the second and third step.

For Long Stratton the expenditure was £278,169.78, the income anticipated was £26,281.78 leaving a difference of £251,888. This would have seen a rise in Precept of 15% which was not acceptable for the Council. The Council went through the budget and examined each line of expenditure for further cuts that can be made.

As the budget is determined by January, 3 months before the new financial year starts. It was undetermined as to whether the full budget for 2023/24 is used, using budget control reports, the Council became aware that the full budget is unlikely to be fully used. The expected surplus was then used to support the budget for 2024/25 meaning that the new difference required was £239,888.

Ear Marked Reserves is monies held for future projects and savings, it can include grants received. In 2020 Long Stratton Town Council received a grant from South Norfolk District Council for ongoing maintenance of the Swan Lane toilets which equates to £9,900 pa. With the anticipation of new houses in the coming years which will lead to the Band D property tax base increasing, the Council agreed to use 2025/26 allocation of £9,900 to reduce the difference further meaning that the new difference is £229,988 8.4% increase.



It was determined that no further decreases could be made. For a breakdown of our budget please visit the website www.longstrattoncouncil.info

What does this mean for you?

The increase in percentage terms is 8.4%, but in reality it is an increase of, per Band D property from £149.40 to £161.96.

(if you are not on Band D Council Tax, this figure will go down if you are on a Band A-C and will go higher if you are above Band D).

This increase is £12.56 a year, only £1.05 a month.

Some of the projects the budget has completed for the residents of the community this year.

- Delivery of new play area (in conjunction with Ear Marked Reserves and grants)
- Delivery of a youth shelter
- Delivery of The Kings Coronation event
- Supporting the Easter event with Easter eggs for the children
- Employing a Youth Worker
- Running a warm hub café

The Council are looking forward to potentially delivering additional projects that will benefit the Community, this includes; providing a thermal imaging camera to assist parishioners in how to minimise their energy bills, signposting to grants available for assistance and a Border Hopper service for supermarket shopping. We would welcome more ideas of how we can assist the community.

Please contact the office at office@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk or attend the next Council meeting which is the 2nd Monday of every month.

What your Town Council does

Playing fields

We look after the MUGA, skate park, play area and trim trail, CCTV, BMX track, litter picking, grass and hedge cutting and any other matter relating to the playing field.



Pavilion

On going maintenance, pavilion bookings, out of hours service for hirers, CCTV, public toilets, defibrillator.

Street furniture and facilities

Benches, notice boards, bus shelters, Swan Lane public toilets, defibrillators, SAM2 (x2), Town sign, Manor Road telephone box, Town plain, open space by footpath 12, dog bins and litter bins (emptied by South Norfolk District Council), grit bins (filled by Norfolk County Council), 126 streetlights (Norfolk County Council are responsible for the remaining street lights) Christmas motifs, Christmas trees.



Community Engagement

Summer event, supporting a Christmas event, Neighbourhood Plan, signposting and assisting residents with varied queries, organising Remembrance Day road closure and apparel, youth outreach work and events, providing grants for the community, website, social media, quarterly newsletter and working closely with third parties such as the Police to tackle anti-social behaviour.

The Town Council has the following committees:

Planning and Highways

The committee meets to discuss and decide on supporting or objecting to planning applications based on material considerations as a statutory consultee. The final decision lies with South Norfolk District Council.

Events

The committee meets to discuss upcoming events and community engagement.

Leisure and Pavilion

The committee meets to discuss the maintenance of the playing field, enhancements to public open space that the Council has control of and all matters relating to the pavilion.



Finance and Policy Management

The committee meets to discuss all budgetary matters and reviews the Council's policies.

Staffing Committee

The committee meets to discuss all matters HR.

Action Group

The committee meets to discuss how to enhance Long Stratton as a place to live, how to support residents and to discuss securing funding to support this. All items on the Action Plan has been derived from parishioners from the Neighbourhood Plan. Actions can be added to the plan at any time as and when a need is identified.

The Committees meet a minimum of 4 times a year except for staffing that meet when a need arises. In addition to this the Full Council meets every second Monday of the month at 7pm in the Town Council Pavilion apart from August.

Community room for hire

Need a venue for a birthday party? Or how about somewhere for meetings? Or do you run a club and need a venue? The community room at the Pavilion is modern, bright and spacious and is available to hire during the day, evenings and weekends.

It has kitchen facilities, WIFI and free parking is available.

If you would like to make a booking or would like to come and have a look around then please call 01508 530524,

or e-mail office@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk



OFFICE OPENING HOURS
MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS
10AM-2PM
CLOSED WEDNESDAYS

Has this newsletter piqued your interest?

Is there something that you would like to know more about?

Is there something that you would like to see in the next newsletter or on the website

Please get in contact, this newsletter is designed to provide as much information about the important work Long Stratton Town Council are doing and the chances are, if you have a query, other residents will have the same query.

Please take the time to have a look at the website, address is on the first page.

We look forward to hearing from you.

KEY CONTACTS

Town Council office - 01508 530524

South Norfolk District Council - 01508 533701

Website - www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

- **Bins**
- **Council tax**
- **Housing**

Norfolk County Council - 0344 8008020

- **Highways**
- **Social Services, adult and children**
- **Education**

Allotments -

Managed by St Michaels Church - 01508 530296 or e-mail Rosemaryaf.bennett@btinternet.com

Long Stratton Medical Partnership - 01508 530781