



# Long Stratton News

## WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2026 EDITION

It is nice to see the days getting longer and the sun starting to appear.

We recently had to condemn the slide that was the oldest piece of play equipment on the park. It was a sad loss but unfortunately was no longer safe. The park does have 2 other slides for use which was part of the playground refurbishment which was carried out a couple of years ago. The feedback that we have received is that the park does not cater for 9 months to 3 years of age therefore working with the youth council we will be looking at options to fill that space catering for that age range.

We are still looking at ways we can improve the skate park, the loss of the half pipe again has led the Council to look at the refurbishment of the skate park as a whole. This is an expensive project and the office team are looking at ways we can deliver this through grant funding.

The Council appreciates that it is not just play equipment that is needed and we are looking at ways we can support the community to tackle loneliness. We have decided to trial a café and tuck shop in the Pavilion, which is run by volunteers, anyone can attend and have a drink, cake and a chat. Details will be posted on social media as well as notice boards and around the Town.

We have had a change in Councillor's, Robin Ciorra has stood down and the Council would like to thank him for his hard work. Councillor Mike Skelton has been co-opted in his place, Mike has attended many Council meetings as a member of the public and is passionate about the community that he lives in.

The office team have received a lot of enquiries regarding the rise in precept, in this newsletter is detailed information relating to the rise, please take the time to read it through.

Meetings take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at 7pm in the Pavilion, please come along.

Take care, Kelly Lunnes, Chairman of Long Stratton Town Council.

### MEET YOUR COUNCIL

**Chairman**  
Councillor  
Kelly Lunnes

**Vice-Chairman**  
Councillor  
Mat Pochin

Councillor  
Andrew Lansdell

Councillor  
David Willis

Councillor  
Katrina Thompson

Councillor  
Helen Dickerson

Councillor  
Judith Baker

Councillor  
Louise Mundford

Councillor  
Fiona Lawrence

Councillor  
Susan Smith

Councillor  
Justin Harris

Councillor  
Florence Morimont

Councillor  
Mike Skelton



### **Long Stratton Town Council**

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

Tel: 01508 530524

Email: [office@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk)

Website: [www.longstrattoncouncil.info](http://www.longstrattoncouncil.info)

April 2026



# LONG STRATTON COMMUNITY CAFE

**The wonderful Long Stratton Community Café had its first opening session on Thursday 9th April. Tasty treats were enjoyed and the sun shone!**

**The next monthly café will be as advertised on Thursday 21st May from 10am till 12pm. Days and times may change after this session so keep a look out for upcoming adverts.**

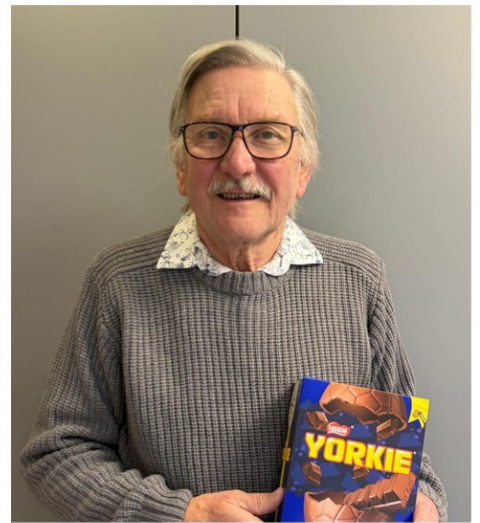
**The Friday Tuck Shop also began on the 10th April. Times are looking to be extended for this very popular treat, so will be weekly from 2pm until 5pm.**



**(times subject to change if necessary)**



# Long Stratton Town Council Easter Egg Donations



*Proud to support the ASDAN Easter Raffle  
at Long Stratton High School.*



# Long Stratton Town Councils Precept

## 2026/2027

In October and November 2025 the finance committee met several times to discuss the budget for 2026/2027. A very difficult challenge to predict what the costs are going to be 6 months in advance.

Some of the costs for 2026/27 were known, the majority however were unknown and therefore had to be estimated by looking at what the Council had spent to date delivering services, estimating the cost to the end of the financial year and applying a % increase to reflect the ever fluctuating costs for services.



All of the Council's contractors have put their costs up, this includes TT Jones for all street light maintenance, the Council has 226 street lights that we are responsible for. It also includes the District Council who manages refuse collection but charges the Town Council for it. Public toilet maintenance, the public toilets costs the Town Council in excess of £26,000 every year. These are just a few examples of some of our contractors. However these are known costs for the new financial year, the more challenging part is the unknown costs, this predominantly is utilities. Upon completing the budget as Responsible Financial Officer I researched reports that we see in the news regarding the rate at which utilities are increasing. Water for example was estimated to increase by 26% minimum with electricity and gas anticipated at a minimum of 10%. All other costs were increased by the RPI index.

As a Council, we have a duty of care not to become bankrupt and as such in Government legislation we have to keep a quarter of our operating budget as a General Reserve in case there is an emergency so that we can keep delivering essential services.

What we provide is the following, the play area and playing field, dog bins, litter bins on the playing field, we maintain The Plain, Churchfield's roundabout, the open space at the back of South Norfolk Precinct. We provide all the street furniture, bus shelters, benches, we operate SAM2 machines to help combat speeding. Street lights as already mentioned, public toilets, the pavilion and then there is the community work that we provide, youth café and working with young people, events which is heavily subsidised by the Council to aim to keep the costs down, quarterly newsletters to ensure engagement, maintaining the website and we provide a lot of guidance with signposting to other organisations.



Behind the scenes the Council team work hard looking at new opportunities for residents, we are currently researching a new skate park, events and provision to tackle loneliness, how to keep Long Stratton thriving now that the bypass is here, we are looking at Long Stratton in Bloom, there is much more that we provide and we regularly put updates on the website on what we are doing.

This years budget was very difficult, it is very much a chicken and egg scenario where the Council is trying to prepare for the new housing that we know is coming however this does have a cost attached to it. The Council tax element is made up from all the properties that pay council tax in Long Stratton. When the extra housing comes the Council tax element will be split between more houses; for example currently there are 1421 houses paying Council tax, when the housing is delivered there could be 3000 houses paying Council tax. So if Council tax is raised at £100,000 split between 1421 houses the cost would be £70 per household but split between 3000 houses would be £33.33 per household and the Council tax element will go down.

I cannot guarantee that Council tax will go down however no one was particularly happy with the raise that we had to implement as all the Councillors are volunteers that live in Long Stratton so they have to pay that raise too.

The breakdown for the budget is on the Council's website.



We were sad to learn that County Councillor Alison Thomas is stepping down from her role as County Councillor. Alison's local knowledge has been vital in tackling issues that have impacted Long Stratton residents including herself. This includes campaigning for the bypass as well as holding the Local Lead flood Authority accountable following the flooding that occurred in December 2020.

The Town Council have built a fantastic relationship with Alison and we would like to thank her for her continued support. So Alison, thank you and we wish you all the best for whatever follows.

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Bonfires on allotments and in your own garden can become a 'statutory nuisance' (covered by the Environmental Protection Act 1990).

Please be aware of the regulations covering fires, thank you.



Although we do love dogs, please could we remind you that no dogs are allowed in any of the play areas on the Manor Road Playing Fields. This includes the Skate Park, the BMX track, the MUGA, the fenced in play area and the gym.

Thank you.



**We are excited to let you know about our next Community Event!**

**This year it's being held on Saturday 20th June from 1pm until 5pm on the Manor Road Playing Fields.**

**Back by popular demand we will be having another climbing wall, see how high you can climb! Alongside this we are having an inflatable obstacle course, this one will certainly wear out the kids!**

**On stage we have the wonderful and popular James D Party Time back again for some great fun entertainment followed by music on stage.**

**We have food vendors booked but still have space for stall holders. If you would like a pitch, gazebos are recommended as you never know what the weather will hold, then get in touch with Jessica for more information at the Councils office by emailing: [office@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk) or calling 01508 530524.**

**We're also looking for sponsors for the event, so if your business could help in any way it'd be much appreciated!**



**Bring on the fun and sunshine!**

## **OFFICE OPENING HOURS**

**MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS**

**10AM-2PM**

**CLOSED WEDNESDAYS**

(Please be aware that staff work flexible hours and therefore may not always be available, therefore it is recommended an appointment is made first on the contact details on the front page)

**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 as possible 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, the address is on the first page.**

**We look forward to hearing from you.**

## **KEY CONTACTS**

Town Council office - 01508 530524

South Norfolk Council - 01508 533701

Website - [www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](http://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)

- Bins
- Council tax
- Housing

Norfolk County Council - 0344 800 8020

- Highways
- Social Services, adult and children
- Education

Allotments -

Managed by St Michaels Church - 01508 530296 or e-mail [Rosemaryaf.bennett@btinternet.com](mailto:Rosemaryaf.bennett@btinternet.com)

Long Stratton Medical Partnership - 01508 530781