

Solar Together: Broadland and South Norfolk Councils are offering residents the chance to be part of a scheme to help make it easier for homeowners and small businesses to buy solar panels for generating energy.



The councils, along with other councils in Norfolk, have once again partnered with bulk buying specialist iChoosr to set up Solar Together Norfolk, which is a group-buying scheme where the more people and businesses who join, the better the price should be of the installation.

Register by 27 October, 2023, and then pre-vetted UK solar PV installers will participate in an auction. They are able to offer competitive pricing as the volume and geographic concentration makes it possible for them to realise greater efficiencies, which they pass on with lower prices for installations.

Nutrient Neutrality:



After receiving an announcement that the Government had finally decided to try and deal with NN so that LPA's could finally release planning decisions and get house building back up and running, it was disappointing that the House of Lords blocked it.

Norfolk County Council is closely monitoring the local and national position in relation to RAAC in schools.

As of 6 September, one Norfolk school was closed to pupils due to concerns over the presence of RAAC. The school, Thomas Bullock Academy, delayed the start of term so that checks could take place in the school hall.

The council first became aware of possible issues with RAAC in 2018 and worked with all its maintained schools to assess if the material was present and if any action was needed. Further checks have been carried out following the [government's updated guidance](#). All of Norfolk's maintained schools remain open to pupils.

The Department for Education is also carrying out its own checks to ensure it is satisfied that no further works are needed. The guidance is changing regularly, so the council will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Most Norfolk schools are academies, which are independent of the council and are responsible for their own buildings. However, the council wants to ensure the safety of all of Norfolk's children and has reminded academies to complete the DfE survey on RAAC. It has also offered practical help, where academies might need it.

The situation is changing regularly and, should any further closures be required, they will be published on the [school closures section of the website](#).

Schools and academies will be in touch with parents if any issues are identified in their child's school.

40,000 Discounted Trees Available as Part of Norfolk's 1 Million Trees Scheme

Residents, landowners, community groups and schools in Norfolk are being encouraged to join a new push aimed at increasing the number of trees planted throughout the county.

As part of this initiative, 40,000 trees will be available to order at a reduced price offering a great opportunity for individuals and organisations to contribute to the environment and make a significant impact with each tree being 'one in a million'. Tree packs will be available at seven collection points across the county including Norwich (County Hall and Broadland Country Park), Acle, Long Stratton, Watton, Fakenham and King's Lynn.

With over 270,000 trees planted since 2019, I am proud of the progress we have made. Now, we are determined to achieve an even greater impact in the upcoming 2023/24 planting season."

Those wishing to purchase a tree pack will be able to apply online from 13 September. Packs will be ready for collection in the planting season between December 2023 - February 2024.

Once trees have been planted, we're asking people to use our online system to notify us where the tree is, so that can be counted towards our ambitious goal of planting 1 Million Trees in Norfolk over five years.

Further details and the application process for tree packs can be found

at www.norfolk.gov.uk/subsidisedtreepacks

Steps residents can take to improve drainage and reduce flooding risk

With bird nesting season over, people across Norfolk have a chance to do their bit to stop flooding and keep water flowing across their properties.

Small, simple steps that ensure water can drain away from your home can cut down the likelihood of flooding, starting with tasks as simple as keeping drains, ditches, and watercourses clear and able to flow freely. After a year's growth, many ditches and watercourses will benefit from clearing branches, and cutting back new undergrowth. Now bird nesting season is over, early autumn is the prime time for property owners to put in a little work to keep their properties safe.

A build-up of flood water with nowhere to drain can quickly turn a minor incident into a disaster for the home. By starting off small, and checking drains for any blockages such as mud, leaves and stones, residents can take the first step towards mitigating the impact of flooding.

Outside the home, if residents spot any blocked or broken drains on Norfolk's highways, they can report it via www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding, allowing Norfolk's Highways Team to clear them and keep our roads open.

Norfolk County Council Net Zero

Encouraging more people to use the bus travel and other sustainable options is key to our ambitious aims of achieving net-zero in Norfolk by 2030.

Norfolk County Council has committed to achieve 'net zero' carbon emissions on its estates by 2030, but within its wider area, to work with partners towards 'carbon neutrality'. This also supports the government's ambition for a net zero country by 2050.

We will achieve this by implementing carbon conscious ways of working across our buildings and supply chain; putting in place the right infrastructure across the county to support the move towards net-zero; and by working together with partners to lead and inspire our colleagues, citizens, communities, and businesses to take action and play their part in protecting Norfolk for future generations.

Charcoal Line moves to seven day service in latest bus service improvement

Bus Services between Bungay and Norwich are moving to seven days a week thanks to money that Norfolk County Council secured from the Department for Transport (DfT) to improve bus services across the County.

The changes, which come into effect on Sunday 3 September, will see the Charcoal Line - the service that includes the 40, 40A, 41, 41A and X41 bus services - running an hourly service every Sunday, Starting at 08:10 and running through to 17:10.

This is the first time the Charcoal Line will run on Sundays, giving users a service into the city centre.

For many people Sunday is as busy as any other day of the week. Whether it's getting to work, doing some shopping or just heading out for a meal with friends and family, the enhancements to the Charcoal Line will give people an easy, affordable option to get into the city and will let more people make the choice to leave the car at home."

The new service will run from Hillside Road West in Bungay through to St Stephens in Norwich, with stops in Bungay, Ditchingham, Hedenham, Woodton, Kirstead, Brooke, Poringland, Stoke Holy Cross, Framingham Earl and Trowse on the route.

The change follows on from enhancements to the Charcoal Line introduced earlier this summer, including the move to half-hourly bus services running on Monday to Saturday between Bungay and Norwich since 24 July.

This is one of a number of service enhancements which are being funded by the £49.55 million funding which Norfolk County Council was successful in securing from the Department for Transport (DfT) to use on improving bus services across the County over the next three years.

Approximately £12 million of the funding has been allocated to provide new or expanded bus routes and increase service frequencies on key routes, including more evening and weekend services.

The new timetables for the Charcoal Line can be found on the [Firstbus website](#).

Norfolk Bus Service Improvement Plan

Norfolk received the sixth highest allocation in the country and the funding consists of £30.9m of capital funding and £18.6m of revenue funding.

The plans outline 17 new measures across the county which give buses priority on the roads. These include new bus lanes in Norwich, King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth and redesigned junctions across the county.

New or improved travel hubs are proposed for Sheringham, Cromer, Diss and Hunstanton which will provide better waiting areas with real-time information to help to give passengers a better experience as well as being integrated with walking and cycling facilities.

There will also be a county-wide review of bus stops with upgrades to improve access for people with disabilities, to provide more real-time information and a programme of works to reduce delays to buses.

Improved services already announced:

[Lynx 35 and 36 service](#)

[Sanders - X55 and 210 service](#)

[Konectbus - 5b and 11a service](#)

[Konectbus - 512 service](#)

[Konectbus - Fab4 service](#)

[Sanders - X40 service](#)

[Konectbus - 35 Canary Konect service](#)

[Lynx 35/38/48/49 services](#)

[Go To Town - 3H Town Link, King's Lynn](#)



We're excited to announce that the first two fully electric buses have arrived in Norwich.

[@FirstBusUK](#)

is working hard getting drivers trained to drive the new vehicles so keep an eye out and you might spot them around the city!

- [Scam Alert - Fake prize win emails](#)
- [Scam Alert - Contacts claiming to be from the Financial Conduct Authority](#)
- [Rogue Trader Alert - Doorstep Cold Caller claiming issues with properties' roof](#)
- [Rogue Trader Alert - Doorstep Cold Caller offering mattresses](#)
- [Link 5 - NCC Scams Page](#)
- [Recall Alert - River Island is recalling their 'Girls White Embellished Graphic T-shirt' with the product number 457981 as the decorative embellishments may contain Lead in levels that exceed the recommended level](#)
- [Recall Alert - The Compleat Food Group is recalling various chilled pastry products sold at Sainsbury's, Asda and Aldi as they may contain pieces of metal and plastic](#)
- [Scam Alert - 'Payment declined' scam emails](#)
- [Scam Alert - Fake parcel delivery emails and text messages](#)
- [Scam Alert - Fake competitions and promotions on Facebook](#)
- [Rogue Trader Alert - Doorstep Cold Callers offering driveway work](#)
- [Lidl recalls their 'McEnnedy Corn Dogs 530g' with the best before dates of 28 April 2024, 10 June 2024 and 10 August 2024 due to the possible presence of Listeria monocytogenes](#)

GREEN WASTE TIPPING AND SURFACE WATER

Surface water flooding is what happens when there is too much rain for the drains and the streets fill with water. This doesn't sound that threatening. Gene Kelly danced through a minor surface water flood in Singing In The Rain. Who doesn't love that?

Why It Matters: Surface Water Flooding - A Real Growing Threat.

But the reality of surface water flooding is not nearly as cheerful as the movie. It is a real and growing threat – to life, to property, to the economy, to the country.

Surface water flooding is a risk because of its reach. Of all the flood risks to which our rainy island is subject - from coasts, rivers, groundwater, sewers and surface water – it is surface water flooding which threatens more people and properties than any other form of flood risk. Over 3 million properties in England are at risk of surface water flooding. **Surface water flooding is a risk because people don't know it is a risk.**

Part of this is about Sustainable Drainage Systems. If we are to tackle the surface water flooding issues, the education starts in public awareness. If people know they are at risk they are more likely to do something about it, knowing what the risks are, where they will come from, and what you can do to help yourselves and your neighbours from future risk.

Blocked Watercourses, Ditches and Open Drains.

The dumping of green waste such as lawn and hedge clippings can lead to the blocking of drainage systems; directly through the build-up of plant debris, and indirectly through the spread of invasive plants, reducing and or changing the flow of waterways. This change in flow, including path and velocity, can alter hydrological cycles, affecting frequency and intensity of floods. Dumped garden waste can add high levels of sediments, causing water levels to rise.



Fly-tipping is a serious issue and does not just mean household waste but includes green/garden waste too. There is so much information available regarding the effects of dumping garden waste, much of it can be found here:

[Garden waste dumping - Wikipedia](#)

These can have huge impacts on the local environment by:

- Causing Pollution
- Blocking Watercourses
- Surface Water Flooding
- Possible Danger to Public Health
- Hazardous to Wildlife and Habitats
- Imposes a growing burden on the Tax Payer.
- (PAYING TWICE TO COVER COSTS; AT THE LOCAL TIP AND COVERING COSTS FOR COUNCILS TO CLEAR DUMPED WASTE!)



Fly-Tipping – Is A Criminal Offence Under Section 33 Of The Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Offenders can be given a £400 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for small scale fly tipping or face an unlimited fine and or up to 6 months imprisonment, for larger scale and repeat offences.

A fixed penalty notice (FPN) is a fine issued instead of prosecution in court. If you receive one and choose NOT to pay it, you could be prosecuted and may have to pay a much larger fine as well as court costs.

We may issue the FPN when a householder/occupier appears to have failed to comply with their duty of care under section 34(2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in England. For example: Where fly-tipped waste can be traced back to a householder/occupier who is found to have failed to take reasonable steps to ensure that they transferred the waste to an authorised person or site. The use of these penalties will focus on those who cause genuine harm to the local environment by not meeting their duty of care

Where there is more than one household that are contributing to the issue of fly tipping, an educational approach seems the best course of action.

Ditches and The Law.

The common law imposes a duty on the occupier of the land adjoining the highway to clean ditches, drains etc which are necessary for draining the highway. There are two categories of ditches that run alongside the highway:

- Those provided and maintained by the Highway Authority for the sole purpose of draining the highway.
- Those existing for the purposes of land drainage and which are privately maintained.

Where a ditch is used jointly for highway water and land drainage then the law presumes that the adjoining landowner is responsible for the maintenance unless there is conclusive proof to the contrary.

The Effects of Illegal Dumping On the Environment

If plant matter gets into waterways it can create reduced oxygen levels through the process of decomposition of green waste such as lawn clippings. This directly upsets the quality of water, affecting fish and aquatic wildlife. ^[13]

1. **Wildlife Disruption.** Illegal dumping can endanger the lives of animals. They can become ill after ingesting waste or get stuck in the construction debris, exposing them to predators. Non-native wildlife may also get attracted due to large piles waste, such as rats and nesting mosquitoes. Moreover, if the waste somehow ends up in a water source, fish could ingest toxic matter.

2. **Soil and Water Contamination.** When extensive waste accumulates in a single place, there are threats to the water quality and nearby soil. Unlike regulated landfills that protect the surrounding areas from contamination, illegal dumping sites are not equipped with similar systems. As a result, the runoff from hazardous waste goes into rivers, streams, and most worryingly, sources of drinking water. These chemicals mix with the soil and cause an area's land to become infertile. It also hastens the growth of invasive vegetation known for being immune to chemicals. As chemicals make way into the vegetation, they can have adverse effects on food supply.

3. **Blocking watercourses** will reduce the flow of water and may lead cause flooding to highways and other landowners' property. If this is proven, you may have to pay for damages and repairs.
4. **Let water flow naturally.** Waste that has been illegally dumped into a watercourse will cause blockages. Overgrown vegetation, fallen trees or overhanging branches will add to the effects from your watercourse.

You should however, cut back offending trees and shrubs on the banks if they are causing an obstruction. Leave all other trees, branches and shrubs and keep them well maintained and tidy - they can help prevent flooding by varying the shape and reduce the flow of the channel and reduce soil erosion whilst providing homes for wildlife and habitat corridors.

Work on Ditches.

Ditches should be cleared and the depth maintained as necessary to ensure that the efficiency of the system is not impaired. Any excavated material must be removed from the vicinity of the ditch so that it is not washed, or pushed back in.

Ditches and Watercourses.

Ditches or watercourses are the responsibility of landowners (often called riparian owners). Roadside ditches normally belong to the adjoining landowner and not the highway authority, except where land has been acquired for new road building. The highway authority can discharge highway water to a roadside ditch and may maintain it but is under no obligation to do so.

Landowners may drain their land to any ditch or watercourse on the property. They have a duty to maintain their ditches or watercourses in such a way that nuisance is not caused to neighbours.

The County Council's Flood Risk Management Team and the Environment Agency will be able to provide further advice on land drainage issues.

More information on water course responsibilities and our role in regulating these systems can be found in our [Flood Risk Management](#) pages and [Living on the Edge - Environment Agency \(west-lindsey.gov.uk\)](http://west-lindsey.gov.uk)

If drainage ditches become blocked with overgrowth or waste (or because of earth being moved into them by passing vehicles) this can reduce their effectiveness and in turn prevent gullies, runnels and outfall pipes from working, which results in standing water on the road surface, in your gardens and driveways.

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This can give the appearance of a blocked gulley as the system is unable to drain water away through its outfall.

