

Chairman's Report April 2024

2023 was a business as usual year – with a number of events taking place within the parish. Elections for the parish council were due to be held in May but given the number of candidates these were uncontested. This was disappointing as local democracy depends on people in the community volunteering and fulfilling these roles that are part of the governance of this country.

Myself, Mike Webb, Clare Kay, Peter Wood and Andrew Gill were elected in May. John Baldock has subsequently joined the council and we are still seeking to fulfil the one outstanding role by co-option as soon as possible.

The roles are not onerous from a time viewpoint as we seek to run this council in a simple yet effective way – the focus being on fulfilling our regulatory requirements, liaising with both the South Norfolk District and Norfolk County Councils, helping to maintain the environment and supporting local groups who want to run events.

The parish benefits from having a number of active community groups which make use of the facilities in the Parish - Welborne Village Hall, the Runhall Allotments, the Runhall Play Area and the Exchange (in the Old Phone Box in Runhall) – and the local churches. Details of their activities will be covered in their own separate reports. The council has supported these groups throughout 2023 including facilitating obtaining grants from the district council.

In 2023 there was one village event linked to the national celebrations of the Kings coronation. The Runhall Community Group organised a Paint & Picnic in the Park on Monday 8th May.

Planning

We continue to review all planning applications in our parish that are relevant, albeit there was a significant reduction in the number received in 2023 – 6 down from 13 in 2022.

The Parish Council was supportive or neutral on 5 of the applications and raised objections on 1. South Norfolk approved all 6 but did include certain conditions on the one we objected to that mitigated the issues raised by the council. It is helpful for any planning discussions at the council if the residents who are making the planning applications decisions attend the planning meetings.

Highways

We continue to work with the County Council Highways department to resolve problems within the parish and to ensure we get our fair share of general maintenance. This year we have seen:

- issues dealt with in terms of signage and ditches
- ongoing work on potholes of which there are many across the Parish

It has been a challenging year given the pressure on local council finances and the impacts of the weather on the road and drainage systems but we have had some successes.

Everyone in the parish can help by ensuring all Highways issues are reported promptly via the Norfolk County Council online system, which ensures they are in Highways prioritisation system.

PROW's

All the PROW's are reviewed on a regular basis by our four PROW wardens and any issues raised with Norfolk County Council who have responsibility for them. The council would like to thank these people for their work during the year. The PROW's have remained generally in good condition throughout the year, with only occasional issues caused by heavy rainfall.

Litter

All of our four villages currently have volunteer Litter Wardens in place. They work throughout the year removing litter from the local area and thus improving the environment. The roadside verges remain the main problem areas. The council is very grateful for the job they do and would like to thank them for their efforts. It is also important that everyone in the parish takes care of the parish to ensure it remains a pleasant living area.

Budgets

The council has run a balanced budget over the past year and aims to do so again in 2004. Whilst there have been some inflationary increases the Council has been able to minimise the impact the Parish Council precept which has risen by less than 1%.

Police Updates

We get a regular update from the police as to what is happening within the Wymondham neighbourhood of which our parish is part. Our neighbourhood has a low level of crime and disorder. The main priorities for the local police in our neighbourhood are Speeding and Theft.

We also get regular reports on rural crime across Norfolk under Operation Randall, again which is still relatively low. Up to date details of police activity can be found on the Norfolk Constabulary website.

Communication

The newsletter has been distributed following most council meetings – thank you to the team of volunteers who do the distribution. The parish website is kept up-to-date but is not used much by parishioners.

Future Activity

The council will continue keeping on top of business as usual whilst supporting parishioners in any extra activity.

Finally I would like to give thanks to some people. In particular I would like to thank our parish clerk, Bev Long, who has continued to provide excellent support to the council.

I would also like to thank my fellow councillors for the time they give up and the support they provide across all the issues we deal with. In addition I would like to thank our local councillors Margaret Dewsbury (Norfolk County Council) and Richard Elliot (South Norfolk District) who have continued to provide guidance and support throughout the year.

Finally I would also like to thank all the different groups who operate within the parish and all parishioners for enabling our parish to thrive.

Simon Guest

Chair Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall and Welborne Parish Council 17 April 2024

Welborne Litter warden report for Annual Parish Meeting 17th April 2024

I am pleased to report that the highways and byways of Welborne continue to have only small amounts of litter deposited on them.

On our litter pick yesterday we collected only 7 items which is not unusual.

Brian and Margot Hancock

Coston Footpath wardens report for Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Annual Parish Meeting on 17th April 2024

Footpaths covered – FP 12, RB 13, FP 14, FP 15.

Since my appointment as Coston footpath warden, I have walked the paths and report that;

- No problems found with FP12 – clear signpost on roadside, grass cut to a sensible height.
- FP15 has no problems – the whole path is made up of gravel. A few small potholes but nothing that is difficult to avoid. Clearly signposted where it meets the road.
- RB13 surface is good as it is a tarmac road through farm property. No clear bridleway sign only a 'private' sign which put doubt into people's minds but road is fully accessible.
- FP14 this footpath slightly deviates from official Norfolk County Council footpath map but the path is marked and clearly defined. At the beginning of the footpath (first 20metres) is an electric fence which has a clear warning sign. A section of the path towards FP1 is used by farm machinery and cattle so when wet it can be slippery and muddy and when dry it is a very uneven walking surface.

Generally, the paths are in fair condition and a pleasure to walk with no real issues.

Jack Long

Norfolk County Council report for Annual Parish Meeting on 17th April 2024

Council Tax

NCC agreed a Council Tax increase of 4.99% (that is 2.99% for general services and 2% increase for Adult Social Services). Overall the budget will provide an extra £60million for Adult Social Services and £35 million extra for Children's Services. This is necessary because the demand on these services increases every year.

The Rise Up children's mental health and wellbeing programme supported over 10,000 children in its first year.

Devolution

The Council also agreed to accept the £600 million, (over 30 years), Devolution Deal offered by the Government. This will ensure we have extra funding and the power to decide how it should be spent. The deal will include having a Directly Elected Leader who will be elected in May 2025.

Highways

Twenty-seven new gritters have been purchased to help keep the main roads safe during the winter months.

The service has been working hard dealing with the results of the flooding as well as the usual potholes etc,

This year there were 118 bids for Parish Partnership funding. NCC is helping all of them. The joint investment in these schemes will total £1,040,586. Generally contributions are 50/50 but very small parish councils only have to contribute 25%.

Flooding

The Leader and the Chairman of the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance went to London to lobby ministers for more funding to stop flooding because Norfolk is the 10th most at risk of surface water flooding, out of 149 authority areas.

The discussion also included how to capture the excess water for use in times of drought during the hot summer months, and extra support needed for coastal erosion as Norfolk has one of the fastest eroding coastlines.

Bus Services

Norfolk received funding from the Department of Transport to improve local bus services. As well as providing extra buses the plan is to expand some routes and increase the frequency of services on key routes.

Bus fares have been kept low and from February 1st people holding a disabled concessionary travel pass have been able to travel free of charge at any time. Previously they were only allowed to travel free at off peak times.

Waste disposal

Until the beginning of this year people had to pay to dispose of DIY construction and demolition waste. From this year waste from small scale projects in up to 100 litre bags can be disposed of free of charge. This is limited to four visits to a tip within four weeks.

Traders must continue to pay for all waste disposal.

Environment

As part of the aim to plant one million trees over five years to help reduce carbon emissions in the area the council has also been growing trees at Gressenhall to sell to other organisations. Last May the council also adopted a Climate strategy which includes retrofitting our buildings, sustainable transport and developing a green economy.

The Council is also preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy and is one of 48 local authorities working with the Government on supporting nature.

Public Health

The Council's Public Health Strategic Plan commits to delivering a new programme of tobacco control and Stop Smoking initiatives to help people stop smoking and create smoke free environments. Although E-cigarettes (vaping) is a useful tool to help people stop smoking they are not good for adults or children who have never smoked. It is illegal to sell vapes to under 18s and the council has been working with schools on preventing children from taking up vaping and providing guidance on dealing with vaping incidents.

Adult Education

The Adult Learning Service was rated 'Good' following it's Ofsted inspection. One third of courses are now provided on line to cater for people unable to travel to them. The Construction Centre on the edge of Norwich is doing well and there will be Adult Learning Centres in the new Community Hubs being developed in Kings Lynn and Great Yarmouth.

Fire Service

The Fire Service was also rated 'Good' after it's HMI inspection. It has worked hard dealing with wild fires and flooding as well as other incidents over the last year. They also do a lot of prevention and protection work, advising people on how to keep their homes and businesses safe from fire.

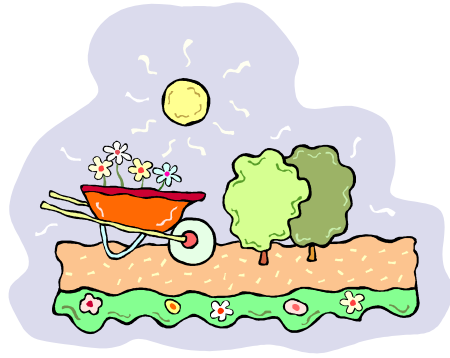
Libraries

As well as providing books, information and free internet access our libraries also provide a variety of activities for all ages, from Bounce and Rhyme for babies to Knit and Natter for older people plus a warm space in which to meet.

The Summer Reading Scheme for school aged children took place as usual as did the Holiday Playschemes.

Norfolk County Council continues to provide a wide range of services to support adults, children, businesses and organisation.

Margaret Dewsbury



RUNHALL RECREATION GROUND - Charity number 244796

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting - April 2024

- The trustees have met several times since last year with various email communications between meetings.
- Rents for the coming year have been collected and banked. We have no vacant plots and have 3 people on the waiting list.
- We continue to monitor the use and condition of the allotments – most are very good.
- We will submit our annual return to the Charities commission ASAP.
- Our insurance was renewed in the summer.
- We appointed a fourth trustee – Debbie Chester.
- We were grateful for a grant from Richard Elliott - South Norfolk District Councillor which was part payment for a new entrance gate and associated posts at The Green.

If you would like to know more about the Recreation Ground – which was left to Runhall in an Inclosure of 1853 – please search on the Charity Commissions website.

Trustees – Bev Long, Liz Holmes, Caroline Blacklock, Debbie Chester.

Point of contact – Bev Long. Tel; 01362 850162 Email; brownowlbev@gmail.com

Mattishall & Lenwade Surgeries – miscellanea update March 2024 issue.

Change of Practice name

Our GP partners are Dr J Fitzgerald, Dr O Chukwunwike and Dr S Maunkee and the Practice trades as Mattishall and Lenwade Surgeries.

Latest CQC Report

Both sites were re-inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in January and the partners and all the staff, who have worked hard to improve our rating, are pleased to share with our patients that the latest report gave the practice an overall 'Good' rating. The report can be accessed via the Practice website home page.

New Pharmacy/Dispensary Opening times

From Monday 26th February the Pharmacy/Dispensary will be operating with new opening hours of 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday (closed for lunch between 1-2pm).

This is to allow us to continue to provide services during our core contracted hours and to ensure that staff have time to complete essential tasks outside of opening hours. For example, our Pharmabox 24 hour Prescription Collection Point is filled each day between 6-6.30pm so may be unavailable for patient collections during this time.

Additional Opening hours for Lenwade Surgery

From Friday 19th January we will be opening our branch surgery at Lenwade for additional hours on a Friday afternoon. The surgery will now be open to patients from 8.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 5.30pm each Friday. This will give patients more choice in booking afternoon appointments as a doctor will be available on both Monday and Friday afternoons as well as mornings on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. A nurse will be on site Friday in the afternoons from 15th March and samples will be accepted until 3.30pm, and patients will be able to order and collect prescription medication.

Important Bank Holiday dates;

Prescription collection for Bank Holiday Closure on Friday 28th March and Monday 1st April

Mattishall = order items by Tuesday 19th March for collection before the bank holiday closure.
Lenwade = order items by Friday 15th March for collection before the bank holiday closure.

Prescription collection for Bank Holiday Closure on Monday May 6th

Mattishall = order items by Thursday 25th April for collection before the bank holiday closure.
Lenwade = order items by Tuesday 23rd April for collection before the bank holiday closure.

Prescription collection for Bank Holiday Closure on Monday May 27th

Mattishall = order items by Thursday 16th May for collection before the bank holiday closure.
Lenwade = order items by Tuesday 14th May for collection before the bank holiday closure.

Mattishall & Lenwade Surgeries – miscellanea update March 2024 issue.

Other Services;

Vaccine Update

We can still give flu vaccines to eligible patients up to 31st March, please contact the surgery if you would like to book in.

Patient Call Back Facility

Please note the Practice has introduced a patient call back facility on our main reception lines for both Mattishall and Lenwade sites.

When a caller contacts reception, if placed in a queue, the caller will be given the option of requesting a call back. The system will recognise when that call would have reached caller number one and initiate a call back.

If the initial call back is not answered the system will attempt one more time, if this is not answered an automatic SMS will be sent to the number (mobile only) advising of the attempted call backs, and if the caller wishes to speak with reception they will need to call again.

NHS app

Have you thought about registering for the NHS app? The app connects securely to your SystemOne electronic medical record and allows you to order your medication, view your records, and obtain test results.

Prescription Text notification service

To sign up to the Text Notification service please email your Name, Date of birth and mobile number to nwicb.mattishalldispensary.d82039@nhs.net with 'SMS' in the subject header.

Mid Norfolk Primary Care Network additional services

Did you know that our reception team can offer patients appointments for additional services? More information will be provided in the next edition, meanwhile please be aware of what is available; First Contact Physio, Social Prescriber, Health & Wellbeing Coach, Mental Health Worker, and Clinical Pharmacist.

A Clinical Pharmacist is a registered Pharmacist who's undertaken additional training to enable them to work autonomously in general practice.

A Clinical Pharmacist can;

- Triage and manage patients with common illness.
- Manage and prescribe medication(s) for patients with long-term conditionals.
- Review patient medication(s) including processing repeat prescription requests.
- Support the practice team with medicines optimisation.

Report from Tina Redshaw – Welborne Village Hall – proposed play area.

The Trustees of the Village Hall are endeavouring to install a small play area at the rear of the village hall. It will consist of a double swing, a small tower to accommodate a slide, a rocking bowl which is a piece of accessible equipment for less able children to have fun on, a wooden seated springer for toddlers and a log walk.

Due to the Hall being a Listed Building we have needed to apply for Planning Permission to ensure that any structure is not to the detriment of the building. Planning Permission is now in process. We have had 3 quotes from Play Equipment suppliers. The equipment will be mainly of wooden construction with a green plastic slide. The swing seats will also be dark green plastic.

We are hoping to cover our costs primarily with donations. The committee from Runhall that have successfully received donations with regards to a similar project have offered their advice which was much appreciated.

As the land at the rear of the village hall abuts the church land, we have sought agreement from the local vicar and the Finance and Landowner of the Diocesan of Norwich. Both of which whole heartedly have given us their support.

April 2024

**RUNHALL
RECREATION
GROUND
RENOVATION STORY**

Runhall Recreation Ground Renovation Project

Background

It is important that rural South Norfolk families have equal access to appropriate community spaces as the urban centres do, for the wellbeing of everyone in the community, whether young, middle aged or old.

Runhall Recreation Ground currently sits on land allocated to the Parish Council after the enclosure act. In 1977 the council decided to gift a proportion of this for a Play Area and a committee was set up made up of volunteers from the parish. These volunteers were tasked with using their skills to run and upkeep the area, including raising funds for routine expenditure and new items of play equipment.

This important community resource is still in place today and is cherished by all. It is still run by an enthusiastic and hardworking group of eight members of the community from all age groups and family structures.

Although Runhall is a small village with a small population, our community space has a far wider reach. There are no other community spaces in Runhall, Brandon Parva, Coston, Thuxton or Welbourne.

Runhall Recreation Ground means much more to the local community than merely a playground, it is seen as the hub of the community and is a vital link and central location for all local residents.

Our community remains vibrant and family centric with many young families. This is not just a retirement community, and we aim to keep attracting families here.



Current situation

The playground is in dire need of infrastructure spending to maintain and improve the space for today and future generations of families inclusive to all members of the community.

Our current playground improvements (Phase 1) have been predominantly funded by our own community fundraising events such as our biannual festival “Runfest” which raised c. £2,000 in 2023.

Many of the ongoing upkeep and renovation works have been carried out by the community through their time, skills and donations.

Runhall Recreation Ground Renovation Vision

Our main aim is to improve the places and spaces that matter to our community and to keep our rural community thriving into the future.



We want to promote active lifestyles and interactive social connections. Social wellbeing is more important than ever with isolation being one of the biggest problems facing rural communities. Bringing people of all age groups together is one of the core aims of this project. Good mental health is often associated with social interaction and community participation, this is as valid for younger and older members of the community.

Children's physical health improves through safe but playful, enjoyable activity, especially with other children. Our aim is that with improved, more attractive, updated equipment we will encourage more children from the wider community back into the recreation ground with their parents and grandparents.

A renovated play area should open the door to more community activities for older members of the community. We already have much community participation, but this could be enhanced with an updated space.

We plan to update the recreation ground through 4 phases. Phase 1 has 'refined' the area by adding extra seating for adults, a story telling and seating area for children and an improved football goal. We are still working on installing a defibrillator near to the play area too.

Phase 2 will 'replace' the substandard climbing frame with a new, updated, inclusive and more extensive play fort. **This is the purpose of our current application for funding from SNC / CAF.**

In phases 3-4 we aim to revitalise the recreation ground, to increase it's appeal across residents, including for adult gatherings with the installation of more seating and tables. For the very young to teenagers, we will install an inclusive sought after roundabout and renew the basketball surface to make it an all access and multipurpose area.

Project Scope: Phases 1-4

Our main aim is to improve the places and spaces that matter to our community. This project will rejuvenate our main parish facilities; by providing new, fun and exciting facilities which are safe; suitable for a range of ages and accessible for those who are less able. By rejuvenating the recreation ground we will also be creating a better space for our community to meet and hold events which will strengthen relationships in and across our parish.

PHASE 1 – REFINE – 2022/23



Includes:

- Story Telling chairs & Mushrooms
- Jubilee Bench
- Football goal renovation & new net
- Defibrillator

Rational

During this 2022 we conducted a community wide survey. The community expressed their wishes to use the recreation ground for relaxation and meeting up with family and friends. Seating ranked as our highest priority amongst survey respondents. A rejuvenated football goal and defibrillator were also priorities.

We have renovated the football goal and installed additional seating; a bench (in commemoration of the platinum jubilee) and a story telling throne with eight mushroom seats for children.

PHASE 2 – REPLACE – 2023/24



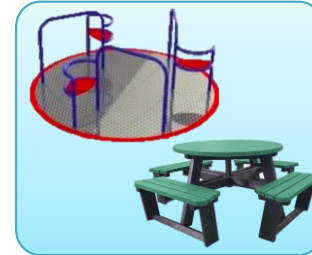
Includes:

- A new play fort. The new equipment will be supplied and installed by a reputable company. It will cover an age range of 2-16 years old and include:
 - central climbing tower, with slide, climbing wall, rope net, etc.
 - smaller climbing tower, with toddler slide
 - 3 bridges, monkey bars and a fireman's pole.

Rational

The current equipment is minimal; and the central piece of equipment is more than 20 years old. Inspection reports are highlighting the wear and tear on this piece of equipment and that the wood is becoming rotten which is a potential danger to the children

PHASE 3 – REVITALISE – 2024/25



Includes:

- all-access roundabout
- More seating and tables for adults

Reason

The current picnic tables are minimal; and are suffering from wear and tear. This would fulfil the survey request for a roundabout and more seating.

PHASE 4 – RENEW – 2025/26



Includes:

Replacing and enlarging the basketball surface. Adding basketball court shooting lines and embellishing the remainder of the area with playground games e.g. hopscotch and the possibility of a chess board.

Reason

The basketball surface is not fit for purpose, previously a platonk area it has loose stones which are skid hazard and side boards which are a trip hazard. It needs to be replaced with a more suitable surface.

Runhall Renovation Project - Phased plan

Our main aim is to improve the places and spaces that matter to our community. This project will rejuvenate our main parish facilities; by providing new, fun and exciting facilities which are safe; suitable for a range of ages and accessible for those who are less able. By rejuvenating the recreation ground we will also be creating a better space for our community to meet and hold events which will strengthen relationships in and across our parish.

PHASE 1 – REFINE – 2022/23



Funding Completed & Equipment installed

- Story Telling chairs & Mushrooms
- Jubilee Bench
- Football goal renovation & new net

Installation date TBC

- Defib (Q2 2024)

PHASE 2 – REPLACE – 2023/24

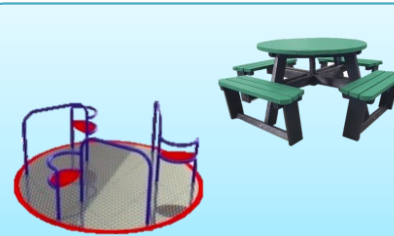


Funding completed:

National Lottery Awards for All:	£10,000
Geoffrey Wattleing Charity	£5,000
Donation CB:	£20
Runfest 2023:	£2,000
Alan Boswell:	£2,000
South Norfolk District CAF:	£15,000
Aviva Community Fund:	£700
South Norfolk Pride in Place Community Grant	£13300

Installation commences 22nd April

PHASE 3 – REVITALISE – 2024



Funding completed :

Mother day hamper raffle	£205
South Norfolk Pride in Place Community Grant	£11700
Loveday & Partners	£2000

Installation commences 22nd April

PHASE 4 – RENEW – 2025/26



Planned fundraising

- Halloween Hamper Raffle (24)
- Carol Singing Event (24)
- Christmas Hamper Raffle (24)
- Runfest 2025
- Alan Boswell Reaching community fund
- South Norfolk Pride in Place Community Grant
- National Lottery Awards for All:
- Christmas Hamper Raffle
- 30 additional grants found but need further research required to ascertain eligibility

Community spirit



Jubilee '22

The community came back together after a long period of isolation during Co-vid.

Coronation '23

The community spirit is stronger than ever as volunteers came together to use their skills to maintain the recreational ground, do a litter pick and paint the fence and finished off with a picnic.

Runfest '23

Fundraising in full flow, the community came together to set up marquees, offer their baking skills, man stalls an support our efforts to raise funds.

Community support

"Being an older single woman with no family nearby, for me, having a local, attractive, communal space has been vital to keeping me connected with, and useful to, my neighbours, both young and old."

Janet Parnell: Resident

"The playground at Runhall has been a wonderful community initiative which not only serves the children as a safe space to enjoy with their parents/carers but is also used by the whole community for social gatherings and events. Runhall, and surrounding villages being relatively remote communities with no village hall, have been able with considerable resourcefulness to make the very best use of what they have. After some years of operation, the space is now in need of development, and we would be very grateful for your support.."

Rev. Tim Weatherstone

"The Runhall Recreation Ground is a vital community space within our parish, which is used by residents from all four villages in the parish. It is run by a vibrant committee of local residents who organise regular events on it, such as the very successful Runfest, and specific events such as the Paint and Picnic in the Park for the Kings Coronation. The Parish Council believe it is an ideal candidate for a Community Action Fund award to replace the current play equipment."

Simon Guest: Chairman of the Parish Council.

The benefits of having such a place in our community is great for everyone. It has benefited my family as a safe space for my children to play, giving them exercise, and supporting their wellbeing. It's provided opportunities for my family to serve the community (fundraising, litter picking, painting, cleaning), and helped my children to learn great community and working together skills.

We also meet others from the village/community so there's an opportunity to be social and support others in the community."

Debbie Chester: Mother

As a family we have enjoyed the play area in Runhall since our children were toddlers with them having fun on the swings & the slide. Even though they are now teenagers they still spend time there playing football & using the facilities. Its also a great location to catch up with other villagers when we have events.

Dave Fairman: Father

Survey Summary

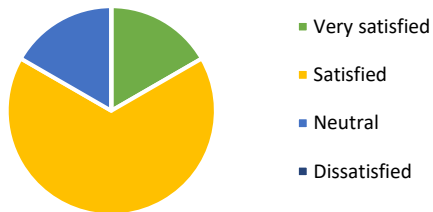
24 people answered the survey, 21 from Runhall and 3 from Brandon Parva with a broad spectrum of ages covered

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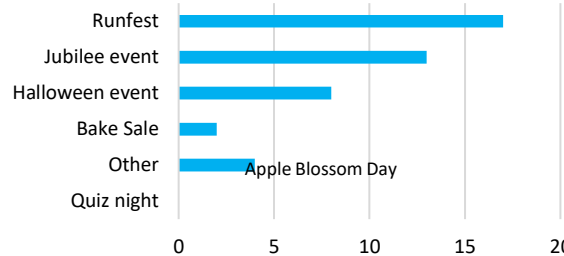
Age ranges for your households



Satisfaction with Current Facilities in Runhall



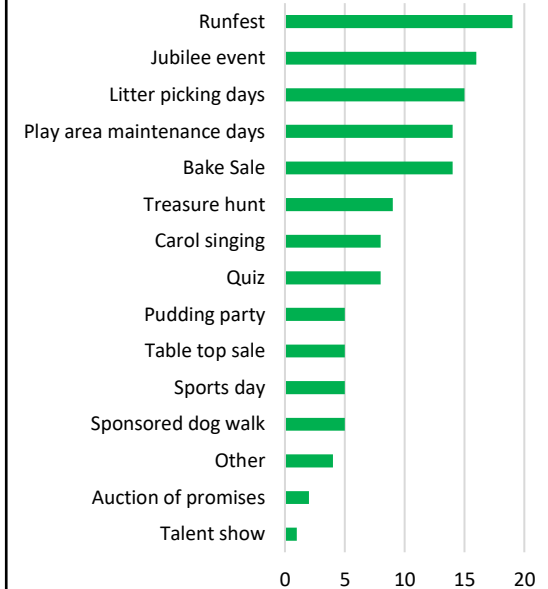
Fundraising Events Attended in Runhall?



Event Verbatim

Lots of fun and games to play at runfest and jubilee
 "I thought the recent event of the jubilee was a super event, with something for everyone.
 Runfest has also been great too"
 Runfest, High quality entertainment and great refreshments at bar and bbq
 Jubilee event was enjoyable
 Runfest was Very good 🍌
 All fantastic. Dedicated team. Great for kids.
 Runfest was very fun event
 Runfest and jubilee events were both excellent for brining the village together
 Well organised, social Runfest.
 I would go to the Halloween event many years ago when I was a kid and it was great. Lots of things to do. Good food. A big turn out from the village as well
 Runfest was Very good
 "Runfest - great community involvement, well run but possibly needs a wider audience to make money?
 Halloween- enjoyed them but it was very weather dependent as to how sociable it could be"
 Runfest - really enjoyed it. Perhaps a few more things for kids like a tuck shop. More food variety?
 All events were well organised and friendly - cake sale / Halloween / jubilee

Future Events



Runfest has been most attended and is most popular for the future.

SATISFACTION

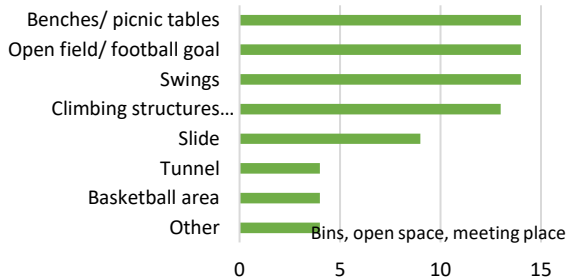


Survey Summary

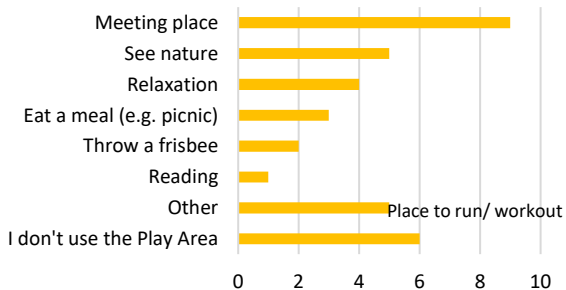
Suggestions for Future Investment

The community are utilizing the Recreation Ground as a meeting place so additional seating is high on the priority list for future investment

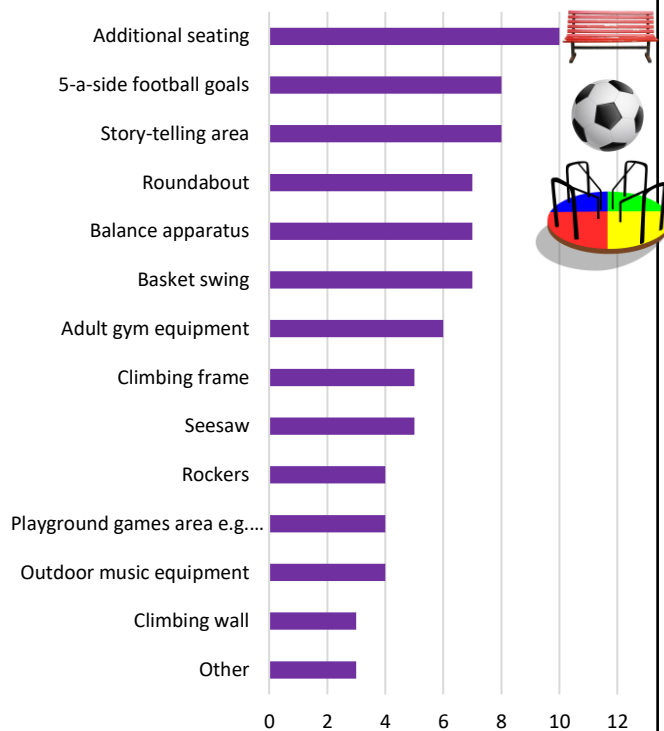
Most Important Facilities in Runhall Recreation Ground



How the Recreation Ground is used



Facilities Wanted in the Recreation Ground



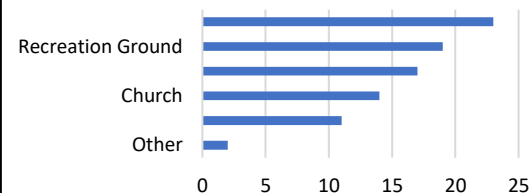
Suggested features from other play areas

- Zip line,
- Climbing nets,
- Wild flowers and flower beds
- Large climbing & adventure playground kit
- Dog poo bins
- A mini course

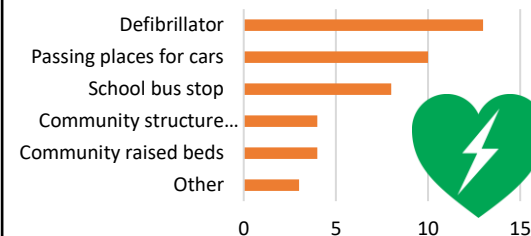


The community are enjoying local walks and would like future investment in a defibrillator and more passing spaces.

Community Facilities used in the last 3 years



Other Community Facilities Wanted



Other Suggestions

- Hall/Shelter/Pavillion/Meeting place at the play area
- Maintain countryside feel with no grey commercial structures or unnecessary signs etc.

BPCRW Annual Parish Meeting Report May 2024

South Norfolk is proud to be an entrepreneurial District Council that is run in a business-like manner and reflects a vibrant and dynamic local economy. We are proud of everything we do and strive to be the most efficient, highest performing and technologically advanced Council in Norfolk.

Thanks to the last 17 years of prudent Conservative leadership, financial management and innovation, South Norfolk Council has been able to continue enhancing the services provided, while maintaining some of the lowest levels of Council tax in Norfolk, frozen at £165 for a band D property in 2023/24. With inflation running at close to 10% for much of last year this was a particularly welcome bonus for residents.

The Council's 2024/25 budget was set in February and recognising the continuing inflationary pressures on the Council a modest £5 annual increase was agreed for a band D property. This means all the 87 services delivered by your local District Council will be delivered to each household for just £170. Yet again the Council has set a balanced, affordable budget that does not draw from reserves. There have been efficiencies year on year without the need for cuts, instead the Council is doing more each year to address real problems, like a further £100k investment to support the Council's role in flood prevention and doubling the investment for struggling families through the Household Support Fund.

At a time when nearly all local authorities are facing financial crisis, South Norfolk has, through good management, been able to find additional income and efficiencies. We continue to set out bold plans for much needed improvements to local infrastructure. This includes a five-year capital programme totalling £97 million all funded without the need for new borrowing. The capital programme will provide a range of critical improvements to the social and environmental infrastructure through our district including new medical centres in Hethersett and Diss, a new leisure centre, a refurbished swimming pool, provision for weekly food waste collections from 2025, the long-awaited Long Stratton bypass and continued investment in building new local affordable housing through our Council owned property development and management companies and much more besides!

Perhaps the greatest challenge faced by the Council in the last twelve months has been the need to invest in additional temporary accommodation to avoid rising homelessness and to reduce the rising costs of bed and breakfast accommodation. This has led to further investment in the Council's housing stock for temporary accommodation, supported by much welcome funding from Government. Through its 'Help Hub' the Council continues to help 500 households a month address the cost of living and the challenges life sends.

Shortly after the May 2023 elections the Council's staff moved to new office accommodation at the Horizon Centre on Broadland Business Park. This is a joint venture with Broadland Council as the one team of staff service both councils. The new accommodation is 84% more energy efficient than the old South Norfolk and Broadland offices which were both due for major structural maintenance work in coming years. The new accommodation has not only led to huge environmental improvements and substantial cost savings but has also increased staff efficiency as the 'one team' now operate from a single building.

We have continued to invest in our world-leading science base at the Norwich Research Park to provide new employment premises and create job opportunities for businesses to expand in Wymondham, Long Stratton, the Waveney Valley and along the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor. As a Council, we are committed to supporting our local business economy and attracting more visitors to our local towns and high streets, whilst ensuring we protect and preserve the special character of our market towns and villages. As an example, we are currently working with the Town Council in Wymondham to enhance the town centre creating a safer, greener and cleaner place to shop, set up a business or simply relax - a £1m investment in our most local town.

But it's not just about big projects, the Council continues to invest in smaller local projects. Here in these local rural communities small grants from my Member's ward grant have funded some much needed facilities at Runhall Allotments and the Refurbished Runhall Playground has received Pride in Place Grant of £25k and Community Action Fund Grant of £15k significantly helping meet the total costs of the project. In the current year the Community Action Fund has been increased to £150k, which means local community groups can apply for grants up to £20k to improve facilities in the community. As the Runhall Playground demonstrates, these kinds of local projects make a real difference to community wellbeing.

The Council continues to set out sensible and deliverable environmental policies designed to protect our precious environment and improve the quality of life of residents. We continue to address fly tipping and will always take legal action against offenders where we have good evidence. Our new office is equipped with 2500 solar panels and is heated using air source heat pumps. Every decision we take is aimed at moving towards a greener world in a sustainable way. Our job is to help everyone to go green and as part of that we committed in the last year to providing EV Charging points for every village or parish council that wanted them. We have our in house refuse collection and recycling teams and have made steady progress in improving recycling rates throughout the district. South Norfolk remains fully committed to reducing its carbon footprint and is amongst the greenest councils in Norfolk.

Helping residents to stay fit and active is a key policy objective for the council. We provide leisure services throughout the district and locally in Wymondham we are so fortunate to be able to provide the full range of gyms, pool and pitches to help people stay fit and active. Unlike many other Councils in South Norfolk, we run our leisure services in house. We have committed to year-on-year investment and have seen a steady growth in membership and leisure centre use since the Covid closures of 2020. We offer a premium service at a highly competitive rate, ensuring everyone who wishes to stay active can access our leisure services at an affordable rate.

Finally, our continued collaboration with Broadland District Council has allowed us to gain the benefits of working over a much bigger scale and responding to challenges at pace for the benefit of our residents. We will continue to invest in the infrastructure that supports our economy to prosper and protects local quality of life, while striking the right balance between the need for growth and delivering the services that our residents value the most. Despite the challenging financial climate, we continue to have high ambitions for the area and its significant opportunities and potential. Our top priority is working with you, and our partners, to deliver services right first time.

Cllr Richard Elliott
South Norfolk District Council Member for Wicklewood Ward