

## Breckland Park Improvements

In 2014 the Planning Authority introduced a new way of providing funds to Town Councils in recognition of growth. The £22,039 of Community Infrastructure Levy received to date has been spent on a new galleon. Additionally we received a £4,347 grant and thank Town & District Councillor John Amis who presented the project to a grants panel. District Councillor Andrew Pond allocated a £1,000 grant towards a picnic table and benches.

We have recently re-marked the car park and contractors are renewing the perimeter fencing in phases. **What can we bring to Breckland Park in order to utilise the small fenced area where the Skateboard Park is currently situated? The equipment will be removed soon, but we will retain the fence and are seeking ideas.**



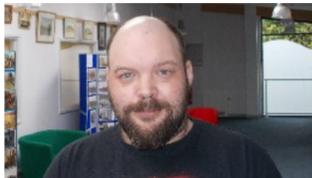
Skateboard park is being removed



New play equipment open

## Introducing new Councillor Dan Burrill

Born in Birmingham, Dan moved to Norfolk nine years ago, and settled in Costessey in early 2015. He is a self-employed Boat Safety Scheme examiner, and his wife does healthcare research. When not working, he enjoys woodturning, restoring old tools, and photography.



## Queen's Hills Update

Plenty of activity to the north of the site behind West Costessey Hall has seen the infiltration basin (lagoon) increase in size, new fencing in the woodland and the start of an overdue project to provide two football pitches and a car park accessed from Ringland Lane. This has meant the Bus Lane continues to be out of bounds for pedestrians and cyclists. All aspects of these projects are managed by contractors for the developers, but the Town Council frequently feeds in comments and concerns. The Town Council will manage the football pitches and car park from the outset and will consider taking on ownership at a later date.

We are on the first floor at The Costessey Centre, Longwater Lane, NR8 5AH Tel: 01603 742958 [info@costesseytc.org](mailto:info@costesseytc.org) [www.costessey.org.uk](http://www.costessey.org.uk)

We welcome feedback and enquiries about our services.

## TOWN COUNCILLORS FOR COSTESSEY

**John Amis** 96, Olive Road 746665  
**Mark Bedford** 32, Bottom Breck Close 749833  
**Gary Blundell** 37, Kestrel Avenue 741097  
**Sharon Blundell** 37, Kestrel Avenue 741097  
**Dan Burrill** 11, Jerningham Road 449840  
**Stephen Burton** 43, Sunny Close 510842  
**Paul Cooper** 47, Tower Close 747468  
**Tim East** 7, St Walstans Close 743241  
**Libby Glover** 78, Middleton Crescent 748374  
**David Gunby** 15A, Grove Avenue 280651  
**Sheila Hannant** 88, Longwater Lane 743444  
**Louise Kneller** 58, Redpoll Road 742035  
**Duncan Lister** Holkham House, Townhouse Rd 948242  
**John Newby** 6, Carr's Hill Close 746328  
**Patrick O'Connor** 144, Gunton Lane 748339  
(Town Council Chairman)  
**Reg Piesse** 1, Longwater Lane 744233  
(Town Council Vice-Chairman)  
**We will require 19 volunteer Councillors from May 2019**

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS FOR COSTESSEY

### New Costessey Ward

**John Amis** 96, Olive Road 746665  
**Vivienne Bell** St Mary's, 8 Smithdale Road 743366

### Old Costessey Ward

**Sharon Blundell** 37, Kestrel Avenue, Queen's Hills 741097  
**Andrew Pond** 11, Folly Road, Wymondham 01953 607267

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR COSTESSEY

**Tim East** 7, St Walstans Close 743241



## COUNCIL STAFF

Town Clerk - Hilary Elias  
Deputy Clerk - Nigel Bailey  
Clerk's Assistant - Margaret Vozza  
Clerk's Assistant - Emma Savage  
Clerk's Assistant - Debbie Bowles  
Head Groundsman - Barry Barber  
Groundsman/Handy Person - Steven Lester

Published by  
*Hilary Elias, Town Clerk, Costessey Town Council*

# Costessey Town Council

Costessey Contact

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Your Quarterly Newsletter



Proposed site entry was off Farmland Road

## Highway improvements scheduled for 2018

Despite cut backs in other areas Norfolk County Council has introduced a new scheme to encourage local highway improvements nominated by your County Councillor Tim East. Working closely with the Town Council the County Council is seeking to introduce two-hour parking restrictions at bays on West End and additional double yellow lines in order to reduce inconsiderate parking. Under a different County Council funding stream we paid 50% towards flashing warning lights on Longwater Lane to make the crossing to The Costessey Centre safer. We have responded to the consultation on further widening of the A1074 Dereham Road between the Roundwell Medical Centre and Britannia Way. The improvements will be funded by developers' contributions and a £2 million allocation from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership. There will be no impact on the existing cycle/pathway to the north, but a much needed pedestrian crossing will be included at the end of Lord Nelson Drive. Vehicles exiting Roundwell Park will only have the option to turn left and, at last, engineers will tackle the problem of flooding at the bus stop.

Cllr East said; "This project is of enormous benefit to Costessey and will ease the daily capacity problems experienced by residents. It is a step in the right direction. For the future, the next stage should be to extend the dualling along the short stretch between the Longwater Lane Junction to the Bowthorpe Roundabout. When this is finally achieved it will provide a dual carriageway right through to the Gatehouse Pub on the outer ring road and will facilitate rapid bus transit into and out of the City with a connection to the Costessey Park and Ride site."

We also met the Police Crime Commissioner Lorne Green and Road Traffic Police to continue our campaign for average speed cameras along West End.



## Principal Local Authority cuts impacting on our budget.

We work hard to budget carefully and set aside reserves as a contingency. However, we are becoming increasingly frustrated by the increase in costs and lack of consultation over non-statutory community services provided by South Norfolk Council & Norfolk Council Council. We understand their budget constraints, but they fail to appreciate how we work. Every local Council across the Country starts to consider its next year's budget in the autumn, which has to be finalised in early January when an irreversible funding request is made to the Council Tax Billing Authority. Here's a few of our challenges.



We own 53 grit bins for use on our public footpaths, but not for use on private drives. The process is very simple, residents who live near to these become guardians and contact Norfolk Council Council when they need re-filling. In October we had 7 days notice to react to a County Council Committee Report recommending the removal of the re-filling service. During further enquires it became apparent that the proposal was to remove the service altogether apart from the option to collect grit from Ketteringham Depot near Cringleford and re-fill the bins ourselves. Many smaller Councils would not have the resources or equipment to do this and we envisaged a campaign to identify volunteers with trailers and tow bars. We complained to Senior Managers at County Hall and Town & County Councillor Tim East spearheaded a u-turn on the proposal.

**Dog Bin Emptying Costs 2016/17 £1,495 - 2017/18 £2,850 - 2018/19 £3,800**

The saying 'Where there's muck there's money' doesn't apply to dog litter. We contract South Norfolk Council to empty the dog bins twice-weekly and haven't found anyone cheaper.

An increase in charges was mooted, but we were very surprised when they looked like trebling and the late notice gave us limited time to react. We eventually persuaded South Norfolk Council to re-consider the charges and offer some transitional relief with half of the bins being charged at 50% for the first year. This gives us ample time to adjust our budget accordingly for 2018/19. We also decided to only pay for the 38 dog bins on our sites or public highways. We were not willing to pay for emptying on sites managed by Housing Associations or at Easthills Woods which is managed by South Norfolk Council themselves.



225 Street lights rather like the one pictured have been in place since the late sixties and are managed and maintained by South Norfolk Council. A Special Levy of £4.94 per annum for a Band D dwelling is charged on your Council Tax to cover the costs. During the summer eight columns were capped as they failed a safety inspection and we assumed South Norfolk Council would renew these. Residents started to contact us and to our surprise discovered South Norfolk Council were setting criteria which would only see the lights left on in areas of high crime and those with a concentration of particularly vulnerable people. Town Councillors were briefed accordingly and we set about contacting potential contractors to see if we could keep the lights on for you at the same cost. We will happily do this if South Norfolk Council are prepared to use approx £140,000 of their own capital reserves to replace old stock first.

Residents on Kabin Road want the lights kept on.

## Costessey Hall 2

### Up Close and Personal

**February 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00am & 12:00 noon**

**Part Two of the History of Costessey Hall**  
**From the last Lord Stafford till present day**

Tea & Coffee available ...  
One hour Documentary ... Local History  
Donations Welcome .... Free Admission

Costessey Centre,  
Longwater Lane, Costessey  
NR8 5AH



Town Councillor Paul Cooper's passion for our history never ceases to surprise us. It's hard to imagine this grand hall, the remains of which are in the middle of the golf course. We have supported Paul by providing equipment to further his good work.

## Countdown to our **Two Day Fete**

Starting a day early on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May the first day will be themed to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War. Free entry is from 12 noon with a Military Sunset Ceremony at 5pm. Activities will include the chance to sit in a plane cockpit and an opportunity to discover what conditions must have been like for soldiers as part of a 'Trench Experience.' Contact Town Councillor Gary Blundell on 01603 741097 if you can help.



## Emergency Rest Centres

In an event of a gas leak, fire, flood or anything that may make it unsafe for you to stay at home, you may be asked by the emergency services to leave your property. We have worked with South Norfolk Council to include our community buildings as provision for Rest Centres. If you have no family or friends to stay with, you will be informed of the nearest centre in your area. A rest centre offers temporary refuge, sharing the centre with familiar neighbours in a warm and comfortable setting, where we will provide refreshments until the incident has been resolved and you can return to your home.



Defibrillator

Costessey Sports Assn kindly donated a life-saving defibrillator which has been installed at Breckland Hall with the help of a grant to cover the installation costs arranged by District Cllr Viv Bell; she also allocated funds towards the cost of new stage lighting and tables. We have improved Breckland Hall with new internal and external lighting. District Cllr Sharon Blundell arranged for a £900 grant towards the defibrillator at West Costessey Hall.



It's been an even busier year for the Council. We have welcomed yet more homes and new residents to the Town and, with the next phase of Lodge Farm being built, plus completion at Queen's Hills and Woodlands, we will be welcoming even more. A big thank you to the Council staff who manage to cope extremely well with all this. Their expertise astounds me! Big thanks also to the sixteen unpaid volunteer Town Councillors who give up their own time to make decisions for the best interests of the community. We hope you have a prosperous New Year and we look forward to serving the community in 2018.

**Patrick O'Connor Town Council Chairman.**

## New Notice Boards

We have installed three new hand crafted Notice Boards at our halls which were part funded by a grant. We plan to remove some of the others and will ensure a final notice of intent is displayed. Thanks to our volunteers who attend to our Notice Boards. Don't forget our website is the best place for up to date information. [www.costessey.org.uk](http://www.costessey.org.uk)



### Costessey Community Fridge Opening Times

Tuesday	9am - 12 noon 6pm - 8pm
Wednesday	6pm - 8pm
Thursday	6.30pm - 8.30pm
Saturday	9am - 1pm
Sunday	9.00am - 12 noon



West Costessey Hall, Poethlyn Drive, Queen's Hill, Costessey NR8 5BP  
Please note: times subject to change

The aim of the Community Fridge is to tackle food waste by offering food that is nearing its sell-by date or for example fails the stores' quality control on packaging. We host the fridge with the help of lead volunteer Town Councillor Gary Blundell who is in contact with local shops. He collects and weighs the produce as well as monitoring the fridge. The fridge is proving popular, as on one day 36kg of food was diverted from landfill. Chairman of Costessey Town Council, Cllr Patrick O'Connor commented "We are calling for the support of food businesses to donate surplus food still within its 'use by date' to the Community Fridge. The scheme is an excellent way for local people to help themselves to good quality free food."

Pictured at West Costessey Hall, Chairman of Costessey Town Council, Cllr Patrick O'Connor with South Norfolk's Cabinet Member for the Environment and Recycling, Cllr Kay Mason-Billig.

