

MARLINGFORD AND COLTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 18, February 2026

Your Parish Council (Still) Needs You

Dear fellow villagers, your Parish Council needs your support! As you may be aware, the Parish Council is the voice of our community for a range of matters important to us all. We review all planning applications, liaise with Norfolk County Council regarding bus services, make contributions to local groups such as our village hall, our churches and The Grapevine, and are responsible for the upkeep of the conservation and children's amenity areas. Furthermore, we formulate and approve the annual precept, which is one of the components of our council tax.

Critically as of this January, and following the resignation of David Woods, following many years of excellent service and commitment, for which we are extremely grateful, we will be at the legal minimum number of councilors across our parish, meaning that the viability of the PC is looking seriously in doubt.

Can we ask you all to have a think if you could spare one evening (usually 7 to 9pm on the second Tuesday of each other odd numbered month), to support this vital organisation?

We would be happy to meet with you individually to discuss how you can contribute. Alternatively, please come and see what we do, at our next meeting, being held in Colton Village Hall, at 7pm, on **Tuesday 10th March**. We look forward to welcoming you.

If this is something of interest to you, please contact our clerk on the contact details over the page.

Annual budget and precept for 2026/27

At the November 2025 Parish Council meeting the precept for 2026/27 was agreed at £20,000, an 8% increase on the current financial year. This equates to an annual precept of £126.58 on a band D property or £2.43 per week.

The Parish Council will continue to offer good value for money to residents whilst ensuring that the village is well maintained for all to use.

2026. The year of Movement, Meditation and Music in Marlingford

We are delighted to advise yoga sessions will be taking place again in Marlingford Village Hall, every Wednesday from **February 4th** onwards, from 7pm. Beginners are welcome, and you are encouraged to try for free, or pay what you can afford. For more details, please contact Dom on 07784 755039, or by email to gentleyogadom@gmail.com

Colton Village Hall News

Our first event of the year will be on **Saturday, February 14th**, when we are hosting a Valentine's Day tea. Do some along and show your hall some love! We'll have lots of delicious cakes and treats for you from 3pm until 5pm.

The Little Owls Monday morning playgroup is thriving, the musical band Offshoot continue to hone their skills with a regular Monday afternoon practice session, there's a Table Tennis knockabout on Tuesday evenings, the talented artists of the Art Group meet on alternate Wednesdays and each month the booming Book Club meets on a Thursday evening to mull over their latest read.

If you want to get involved with any of these activities, or have ideas to start something of your own, please get in touch with Dom Castle via WhatsApp on 07462 671737 or give him a call on that number or 01603 880191 and leave a message.

And don't forget, if you want to hire the hall for an hour or two for a party, big family get-together, or even just to play table tennis on a rainy day you can book it through Marion Morse by calling 01603 880227.

Sofa, so good...

We're looking to make the hall a little more comfortable this year and one of the things we'd like to do is put a couple of small sofas in the room. So, if maybe you're having an upgrade and have an old, but decent sofa going begging, and perhaps a coffee table, please get in touch! Donations gratefully received.

Norfolk Gazelles Valentine 10k 2026

Norfolk Gazelles Running Club will be hosting the Valentine 10k Road Race on **Sunday 8th February 2026**. Their priority is to deliver a safe event for residents, runners and road users while keeping disruption to an absolute minimum.

The Race Route

Runners will leave Easton College at 10:00am. The route travels north along Bawburgh Road, onto Dereham Road Easton, through Colton along Norwich Road, The Street and left onto Marlingford Road and onward towards Marlingford, down Colton Road (hill), before turning left along Barford Road, into Marlingford, then left up Marlingford Road to Easton College. For a map of the route, please contact norfolkgazellesrunning@gmail.com

Road Closures & Traffic Management

Temporary road closures will be in place on sections of the route between approximately 9:45am and 11:30am. (See more detailed timings below) Traffic diversions will be clearly signed, and all junctions will be marshalled by CSAS accredited marshals. Access for residents and businesses will be maintained wherever it is safe to do so, although journeys may take slightly longer than usual.

Safety First

All traffic management complies with Chapter 8 requirements. Emergency access will be always maintained, and marshals will be available to assist residents and road users.

We appreciate that events like this can cause temporary inconvenience and thank you for your patience and understanding. Your support on the day is always warmly appreciated by the runners

Affected Roads.

Easton College: Bawburgh Road – Full Road Closure 9:45am – 10:30am.

Dereham Road: Coned area along entire road from junction with Bawburgh Road to Junction with Blind Lane. Disruption 10:00am - 10:45am

Colton Village Area: Disruption 10:15am -11:00am

Marlingford Area: Disruption 10:20am – 11:30am

Continued Construction Activity on the A47

From **26th to 29th January 2026** between 8pm and 6am each night, the A47 will be closed in one direction overnight between the Honingham and Easton roundabouts Temporary traffic lights will be installed to allow traffic to flow in both directions. Then, On **30th January 2026** between 8pm and 6am, the A47 will be fully closed in both directions and traffic will be diverted. The recommended diversions will follow the routes used during the recent (November 2025) weekend closure.

Additionally, in order to complete the work safely the A47 between the Fox Lane (Dereham interchange) junction and the Longwater Roundabout, the A47 will be fully closed in both directions **8pm Friday 13th February until 6am Monday 16th February 2026**.

In case the work cannot be completed, there is a contingency closure in place from **8pm Friday 27th February to 6am Sunday 1st March 2026**

During this closure there will be a contraflow on the Westbound carriageway between Fox Lane Junction and the western end of the dual carriageway. This will allow for construction of a tie-in of the new dual carriageway.

Traffic will also be switched onto a new local access road between Honingham and Easton Roundabouts with traffic being routed south of the new Norwich Road Junction. Taverham Road will now be fully closed until October 2026, at the junction of the current A47 as part of this switch. Temporary access will be maintained for Honingham Church.

All side road access will be closed onto the A47. Residents living directly on the A47 will be escorted through the closure by traffic marshals when access is required. Access routes through the closure will be maintained for the Emergency Services.

We would appreciate your comments on any of the issues raised in this Newsletter. Please contact any of the Parish Council, whose details will be found on the Notice Boards in both villages, or our Clerk, Maria Hutson on 01603 850118, via our website: www.marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk or by E-Mail to clerk@marlingfordandcolton-pc.gov.uk