

MARLINGFORD AND COLTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 19 (C), April 2026

More Closures on the A47.

As part of the ongoing dual carriageway works, the A47 between Fox Lane junction and Easton Roundabout will again be fully closed in both directions from the Dereham Interchange to Easton Roundabout between **8pm Friday 24 April and 6am Monday 27 April 2026**.

Additionally, Church Lane (South), Easton (also known locally as Dereham Road) from the junction with the A47 to the junction with Dereham Road will be fully closed. Church Lane (North) to Ringland will remain open. as part of the next steps to upgrade the A47 to a dual carriageway.

The usual, but rather long authorised diversion is being put in place, but we can expect severe increases in traffic through our parish. As an example, at the most recent A47 closure last February, traffic along Norwich Road in Colton, which usually records approximately 250-300 vehicles per day, showed an increase to over 2,500 per day during the closure

Five for a Fiver

For those of you who plan to use the Park and Ride service from Thickthorn, into Norwich, all day travel tickets for Park and Ride cost £3 for a single adult. £2 for concessions, £4 for two people travelling together and now five people can travel all day for just £5.

From March 29th Norfolk County Council reduced the price of group tickets on all Norwich Park and Ride Services to five pounds for groups of up to five people.

The reduction was made possible due to funding from the government to Norfolk County Council Bus Service Improvement Plan, which was allocated £14.8 million for 2026.

Household Hazardous Waste Days

A series of Household Hazardous Waste Days will take place at recycling centres across the county between April 10th and June 6th. Please remember to pre-book your visit online

The nearest to our area will be the Norwich South Recycling Centre on **Friday 5th and Saturday 6th June**

To check which items are or are not accepted and book a slot contact:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/hazardouswaste

Surface Water Drainage

Two new Surface Water Drainage officers have been appointed to support work on surface water management and community resilience. They will investigate drainage issues and advise residents and riparian owners on watercourse maintenance. They will be the point of contact for residents and town and parish councils. Contact: surfacewaterdrainage@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Colton Village Hall News

Readers of the Colton edition of this newsletter will note the attachment of a questionnaire, trying to gather the views from residents as to ways in which the facilities in the village hall could be improved. Although there has lately been a significant increase in groups using the hall, the Committee is very interested in hearing any suggestions how it can be updated. Could you please respond to members of the Village Hall committee, as included on page two of the questionnaire, and not to the Parish Council.

Alternatively, the questionnaire may be completed online by completing, then saving and emailing the interactive version circulated as an attachment, on the *Village People* WhatsApp group.

Additionally, following a recent very successful Bingo night, residents are reminded there will be another of the well-known and popular quiz nights at **7pm on 30th May**. All are invited and don't forget to bring your brains.

Fly tipping

South Norfolk Council has 20 cameras which they can put up at known fly tipping spots to catch the culprits. This together with all the groups that are involved with the litter picking campaign should help keep our areas free from rubbish.

Colton and Marlingford Litter Picks

Colton held its annual village litter pick on the 28th of March. 9 volunteers (including one person from Easton) dodged the heavy traffic caused by further construction work on the A47, participated and collected 10 bags of litter from around the village. Thank you to those who took part in helping to keep our village tidy. This was undertaken as part of South Norfolk District's annual Big Litter Pick Day.

South Norfolk Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment, Cllr Martyn Hooton, said:

"The Big Litter Pick is a fantastic way for people to make a real difference where they live. Even an hour spent litter picking can have a huge impact on how our villages and towns look and feel. We're grateful to everyone who gets involved. The Big Litter Pick aims to bring communities together, promote pride in local areas and protect wildlife by reducing litter and waste. Participating groups borrow litter-picking equipment from the Council, including grabbers, bags and hi-vis vests, to help them carry out their clean-ups safely".

Last year, hundreds of volunteers took part across South Norfolk, collecting nearly 5 tonnes of litter and helping create cleaner, safer neighbourhoods. The Council hopes even more people will get involved in 2026, especially with this year's increased prizes.

Meanwhile, In Marlingford on 14th March, 20 bags of rubbish were collected from our verges. Notable this year were a considerable number of N2O (laughing gas) canisters abandoned in numerous places including verges and streams. If you notice anyone dumping waste of any type please report to our local police Beat Manager, Sarah Royall on 07970-981944 or by email at sarah.royall1@norfolk.police.uk.

The Parish Council would like to thank all our volunteers who took part as well as South Norfolk District Council for supplying equipment and rubbish bags for both villages.

Dog Fouling

There appears to be an increase in dog fouling along the public footpath that links The Street and Church Lane in Colton, specifically the first section from The Street to The Paddocks. Somebody is also discarding dog poo bags that have been filled and then left on the footpath no more than 30 yards apart! The bags in question are distinctive being burgundy in colour. There is no excuse for discarding filled poo bags or leaving your dogs' faeces on the ground for someone to step in. Please do not litter our village; dispose of your dog waste properly.

Parish Council Update

Firstly, we are delighted to welcome Derren Wyatt onto the Marlingford and Colton Parish Council. Derren is a new resident in Marlingford and has recently moved here with his wife and their two young children. Derren reports: "I wanted to give something back to the community. I bring nearly 20 years' experience in facilities maintenance, now working as a Contract Delivery Manager. I'm passionate about keeping our village a safe, welcoming place for families and encourage anyone interested to get involved, as there are great opportunities to support and shape our community".

Additionally, and as previously reported, Our Parish Council still has three further vacancies.

As a reminder, 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 the village halls, 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.

Can we again 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, which is our Annual Parish Meeting, being held in Colton Village Hall, at 7pm, on **Tuesday 12th May**. We look forward to welcoming you.

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