

MARLINGFORD AND COLTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 21, September 2026

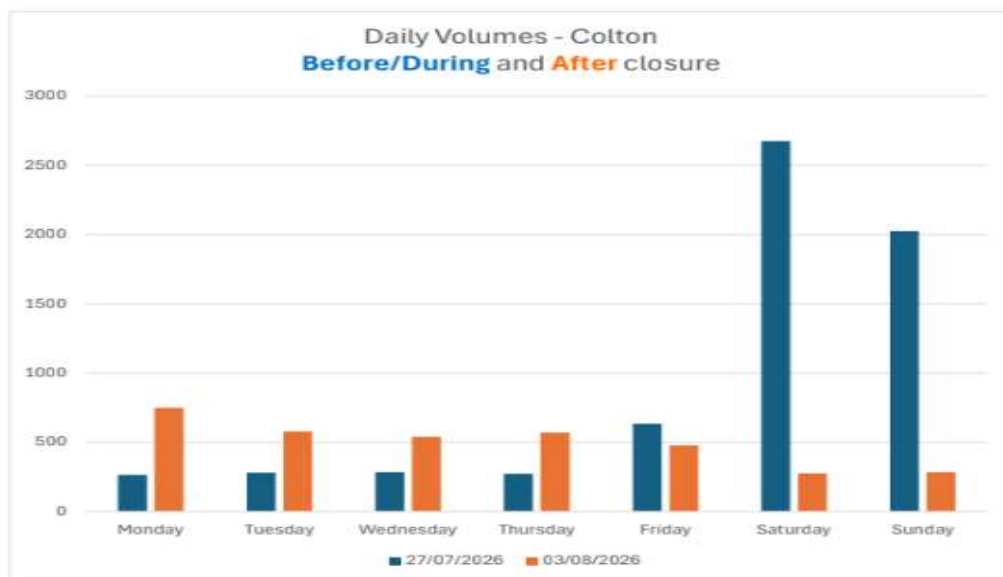
Traffic report: August 2026

The key event during the month was the permanent closure of the Easton roundabout on the A47. It was anticipated that this would lead to permanently increased volumes of traffic in Colton (at least until the new road at Easton linking to the A47 opens in Spring 2027). This has proved to be the case.

Graphs showing the volume of traffic through Colton (heading west on Norwich Road) and Marlingford (heading west on Barford Road) in the weeks before and after July 31st to August 3rd closure of the A47, are included below.

To summarize, there was a more than ten-fold increase in traffic during the weekend closure of the A47 in line with previous experience. This indicates that the measures taken by the contractors and the county council to encourage use of other routes have not had any measurable effect.

Since the closure of the roundabout, the weekday volume of traffic is at around double the previous level with weekend numbers up about 50%. It seems reasonable to assume that this is due to people from Easton heading west using the route through Colton rather than the approved route via the Longwater roundabout.



Average weekday speeds in Colton appear to be largely unchanged.

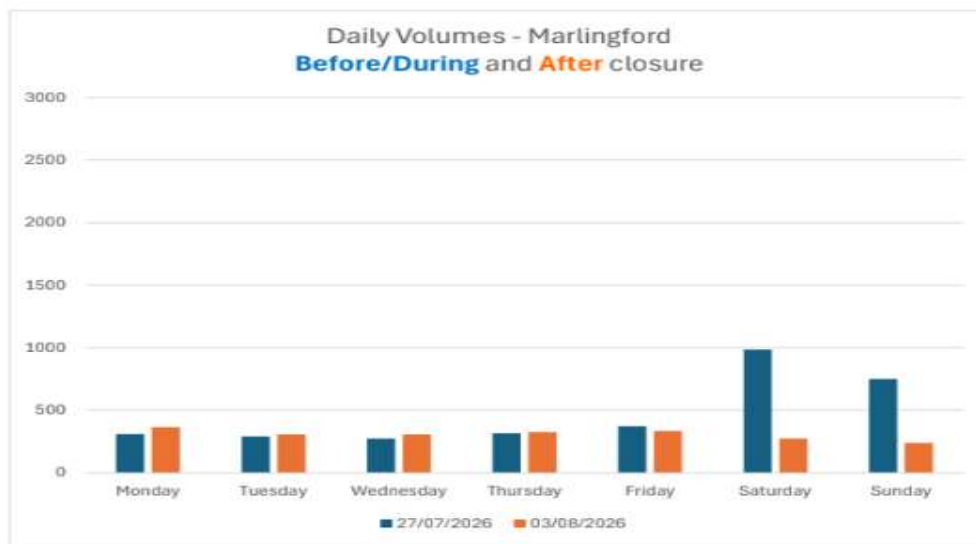
The effect on Marlingford, as illustrated on the next page, has been less obvious. It is clear that the level of traffic was higher during the closure weekend by three to four times. This is presumably people from Easton coming down the hill and people from Costessey going via Longwater. Since the closure weekend the volumes appear to have returned to about pre-closure levels.

During the remainder of August, the SAM2 camera was placed near the west end of the village recording the speeds of vehicles passing the last few houses before leaving the village. It is clear that while 85% of vehicles are being driven at or below the speed limit some vehicles are still being recorded at very much higher speeds, despite the narrow and uphill road.

Going forward, and for the forthcoming months, both SAM2 cameras have been positioned on the other exits from Marlingford, and the resulting data will be shared at the next Parish Council meeting.

Signage and Speed Watch Issues

Following issues raised at our June meeting, we recognise that there is continued concern about traffic volumes and speed through Marlingford. We have been advised that representatives from the Police, and Norfolk County Council will be attending our September meeting. We therefore encourage residents to attend the meeting so that they can ask questions to both organisations that will have responsibility for issues of concern.



As part of our investigations, the Parish Council has undertaken a review of the road signage. This has revealed that, in comparison with other Norfolk villages, our community is missing several important road signs. In particular there should be 'pedestrians on the road' warning signs in both villages and there is a case for weight restrictions to be placed through both villages. These matters are currently being taken up with Norfolk County Council (Highways).

Additionally, we have approached Norfolk Constabulary's Community Speed Watch team with a view to understanding whether a speed watch campaign, manned by residents, could be implemented in the village and what would be required to undertake it.

Colton Village Hall News

Date for your diary

Next up at the village hall is a family fun evening on Saturday, September 12th - the Beetle Drive is back! It's a lovely, simple way for everyone to spend an evening as we enter early autumn; no batteries required! The doors open at 6.30 and there will be an interval for tea and cake and, of course, a raffle. Hope to see you there.

Car park updated

Meanwhile, a small section of the old A47 will live on in Colton, thanks to the builders of the new road.

Contractors Galliford Try have resurfaced the village hall car park at no cost to the community using around 60 tons of crushed asphalt from parts of the old road which had been removed to make way for the new £250m dual carriageway.

Village hall chair Dom Castle said: "We're very grateful to Galliford Try for their work and supplying the materials, heavy equipment and staff to make the transformation. It would have been an expensive undertaking for us otherwise."

Keeley Russell, Senior Customer and Social Value Manager for the eastern region of Galliford Try, said: "We were very pleased to be able to step in and help the village hall with resurfacing the car park. We appreciate that the A47 dualling work has had an impact in local communities and this is just one way we can show our appreciation of their patience and understanding during the works."

If you live in Colton, your Parish Council Needs You

Although we are delighted to welcome Greg Parton and Derren Wyatt onto the Parish Council, we would remind Colton residents that there now is an imbalance in representation. Yet again, we must ask if there are any individuals to augment the team. It is important that if you enjoy living in our rural and peaceful village you should have an interest in the affairs of this community.

Please consider giving a small part of your time and talents to joining us. If you would like more details, please do join us at our forthcoming September meeting, or contact our clerk on the contact details below, who will arrange for one of our councillors to come and meet you to talk you through the process.

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