



# Newsletter

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Cringelford Parish Council has monthly meetings (except in August).

The Planning and Environment Committee is held on the first Wednesday and Full Council on the second Wednesday of each month. Parishioners are welcome to join these meetings (details on website).

There are also additional groups that provide advice to Council — the Recreation and Amenities Advisory Group and the Finance Advisory Group.

***Contact us: [clerk@cringlefordpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cringlefordpc.org.uk) or 01603 250198***

## The Parish Matters

*Budget setting.* At January's meeting, Council decided to freeze the parish precept and maintain the current Band D rate at £184 per household.

*Grant available.* The Parish Council has a budget available for grants to local organisations, voluntary groups or charitable organisations. This year (2025/6) it has £250 remaining in the pot. If any local organisation wishes to request support, please contact our clerk ([clerk@cringlefordpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cringlefordpc.org.uk)). Our policy for awarding grants can be found on our website under 'Documents'.

*Cross in safety.* The signalised pedestrian crossing on the A11 between Roundhouse and St Giles Park has been under scrutiny for several years as part of the Council's Road Safety Strategy. We have received many emails from concerned parishioners about the speed of traffic on the approach to the crossing with several 'near misses' reported. The Local Authority has ruled out our request for an elevated footbridge to replace the crossing on the basis of cost. Consequently, we requested, with the support of Cllr David Bills, our County Councillor, a speed reduction on the road in both directions as you approach the crossing. This was agreed by County Highways but required funding. The Council has decided, therefore, to put £15,000 towards a traffic regulation order and the required changes to the signage to reduce the speed to 40mph. The remaining funding (ca. 40%) will be provided by Highways and Cllr Bills. We hope that this change will improve the safety of the crossing and alleviate parishioners' concerns.

*Trod on.* Many residents have asked us whether a path is planned for the east side of Round House Way between the northern end of Dragonfly Lane outside Tesco, southwards to the bus interchange. There are no plans from Norfolk County Council to put in place an asphalt path, so we have requested as part of Norfolk's Parish Partnership Scheme, that a trod path be installed to improve access to the interchange. The cost of an asphalt path would fall outside the cap of the Partnership scheme. If agreed by County, the path will be put in place by the spring of 2027.

*Pumping away.* The application for our pump track was submitted at the end of last year to South Norfolk Planning. Following representations from some parishioners, the track was reorientated in the final plans to minimise disruption of the field for other users. Once validated by the Authority, the plans will be on display at The Willow Centre and on our website.

*You've got mail.* Royal Mail will be installing parcel lockers shortly to the rear of The Jubilee Centre for collection and drop-off of parcels. These will complement the InPost provision already in use at The Willow Centre.

### Mini foresting Cringleford

Our mini forests are in place. In the middle of December The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) planted more than 700 saplings in four pre-prepared biochar-enriched areas—two on St Giles Park at Codde Close and two opposite The Willow Centre on Roundhouse Park. They will now be looked after carefully by the Parish's grounds staff for the next few years until they are well established.

Our mini forests consist of a large variety of native trees/shrubs including oak, beech, dog rose and cherry plum. Further information about our forests including a full list of all the species used and more information about Miyawaki mini forests can be found on our website ([www.cringelfordpc.org.uk/mini-forests/](http://www.cringelfordpc.org.uk/mini-forests/)).



*The two mini forest enclosures on Willowcroft Way opposite The Willow Centre with members of TCV planting the saplings (right)*



*The two mini forests being planted by TCV on St Giles Park adjacent to Codde Close and the A11*

## Thickthorn's ever changing junction

The long-awaited improvements to the Thickthorn Interchange are underway and causing much disruption to traffic flows. They are affecting Cringleford and all the surrounding parishes as drivers seek alternative routes to avoid long delays on the A11 and A47 at certain times of the day. Cringleford Parish Council organised a meeting early in January between National Highways, their contractor, Skanska, our local MP, District and County Councillors, and several councillors from Cringleford and other parishes, to discuss the issues we are all facing due to the roadworks, most notably increased traffic movements on our minor roads.

See the next page for an overview of the scheme. As a reminder it comprises:

- a new junction at the B1172 Norwich Road connecting to the new Cantley Lane Link road over the A11
- widening part of the roundabout from three to four lanes
- building a left-hand, dedicated free-flow exit lane from the A47 westbound to the A11 southbound
- a new free-flow link road from the A11 northwards top the A47 eastwards via two underpasses
- A new accessible footbridge over the A47 for walkers, cyclists and horse riders connecting the Cantley Lane north and south footpaths.



At the meeting, Councillors and our local MP, Ben Goldsborough, asked many questions and made suggestions concerning the roadworks, their safety and whether any mitigation for the traffic disruption to adjacent roads had been considered. Councillors reported concerns of parishioners about the number of cars now using the Watton Road, Keswick Road and Norwich Road Hethersett especially, as alternatives to queuing on the A11 and A47. The contractors said the original scheme would have required complete closure of the A11 near Thickthorn. They had avoided this by creating, for example, temporary alternative routes such as the new loop on the A11 southbound. A similar loop will be in place shortly for the slip road from the roundabout onto the A47 eastbound. There is little they can do about the disruption on other roads which will be with us for the next two years or more. There is the possibility that Norfolk County Council could alter the Norwich Road/Colney Lane Hethersett traffic light phasing to aid through traffic diverting from the A11. There is, however, a helpful website ([nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-thickthorn-junction-near-norwich/](https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-thickthorn-junction-near-norwich/)) with much information including drone footage from December showing the extent of the works, and councillors requested more information especially a schedule of events to the end of the programme to help people better plan their journeys. It was appreciated by all, however, that any schedule published would be subject to change.

## Update on Developments

*Roundhouse Gate.* Tilia have informed us that they should be starting Phase 3 (application 2018/2836; the northern parcel against the drainage pond opposite UEA woods) in the Spring, following the site clearance carried out last year. The development of 90 dwellings will include a crossing point with a refuge island on Round House Way.

*Cringleford Heights.* Phase 2 (406 more dwellings) of the development (application 2024/3836) was granted planning consent with conditions by the Development Management Committee of South Norfolk Council in December and should commence in the latter part of this year. Due to the nature of the site (against the A47 Protection Zone and partly under electricity pylons), there is extensive green space set aside for leisure, play,

allotments and a linear orchard. The detailed layout approved by the Committee is shown below.

We hope it will be possible to construct a single-track roadway and path between the new development and Sorrel Way on Roundhouse Gate to facilitate access to the development. This, however, is subject to third party land ownership.



*Cringleford Heights Phase 2. A development of around 400 houses to the south of the current Phase 1 development with a linear orchard (1), play area (2), several drainage ponds (e.g. 3), allotments (4) and a linear green space underneath the existing run of pylons (5) that will provide a path between all the developments across to Round House Way and the bus interchange. Also proposed is a link road (6) from Sorrel Grove on Roundhouse Gate through to the continuation of Woolhouse Way that runs through Phase 1 from Colney Lane.*

# USEFUL CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

## District Councillors

Daniel.elmer@

southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Deborah.sacks@

southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

## Church Hall bookings

01603 259138

## Patteson Room bookings

01508 218732

## County Councillor

David.bills.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

## Highways

Roadworks Info: one. Network

Report a problem: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem)

## Police

James Smith Beat Manager

[James.smith2@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:James.smith2@norfolk.police.uk)

## Cringleford Parish Council facilities available for hire



The Jubilee Centre sports hall is available to hire for sport and exercise groups, with nets and markings for badminton, pickleball,



volleyball and 5-a-side football.



## The Willow Centre

The Willow Centre, a

multi-purpose space with numerous rooms, perfect for parties, meetings, exercise classes and children's groups.



**The Pavilion**, a flexible space used by the football club, the tennis club and the cricket club, as well as residents running classes and having private parties.



For all booking enquiries please email

[bookings@cringlefordpc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@cringlefordpc.org.uk), or ring the following

numbers for further information: 01603 457222 (The Willow Centre), 01603

515644 (The Jubilee Centre & The Pavilion). Hire prices and further information can

be found on the Parish Council's website at [www.cringlefordpc.org.uk](http://www.cringlefordpc.org.uk).