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Date: August 2026

From the Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport

Dear Sir or Madam

Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils

I am delighted to inform you that due to the success of working in partnership with Parish/Town Councils for the last twelve years the Parish Partnership Scheme Initiative will again be repeated in the financial year 2027/28. Further supporting information, including possible funding sources for your share of the bid, is available on our [webpage](#).

The County Council has provisionally allocated £500,000 on a 50/50 basis (There is an upper limit on Norfolk County Council funding support of £25,000 per bid) to fund schemes put forward by Town and Parish Councils to deliver projects that are priorities for local communities. We are particularly keen to encourage and support first-time bids.

This letter provides more information on the process, invites you to submit bids, and explains how the County Council can support you in developing your ideas. **The closing date for submissions will be 01 December 2026.** Please contact your local Highway Engineer based at your local Area Office for agreement as early as you can, ideally by the end of September, to get costs and any advice in developing your ideas, especially around the practicalities and cost estimates.

Once all bids have been received, we will assess them and inform you of our decision in March 2027 following approval by the Norfolk County Council Cabinet.

With the government's proposed Local Government Reorganisation programme and timeline, any schemes **will need to be delivered on the ground by the end of December 2027**. Therefore, we would ask that parishes supply their funding by end of April 2027 to prevent lapse of grant.

To encourage bids from Town and Parish Councils with annual incomes (precepts plus any another income) below £2,000, we are offering the following support;

- 75% County Council contribution
- £5,000 maximum bid value
- Offer available only once to any bidder

Bids will also be accepted from the unparished wards of Kings Lynn Borough Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Norwich City Council. Such Wards can always opt to become a formal Parish Council, but otherwise we are offering support on the basis that the Ward raises the required 50% funding. Further details are in the relevant committee report on our [webpage](#).

What sort of schemes would be acceptable?

- Small lengths of formal footway
- Surfacing improvements including trods (a simplified and low-cost footway/footpath).
- Improved signage/wayfinding and information panels to promote walking, wheeling and horse-riding routes on the Norfolk Trails Network
- Access improvements to Public Rights of Way/Norfolk Trails network including gates, stiles, seating, steps, small bridges and passing places.
- Improved crossing facilities
- Improvements to Public Rights of Way / Norfolk Trails.
- Flashing signs to tackle speeding. We would encourage you to consider Speed Awareness Mobile Signs (SAM2 / and new SAM3) - which flash up the driver's actual speed rather than fixed signs (VAS) - which flash up the speed limit. The number of VAS in Norfolk has grown, and checks show that speed reduction benefits can be minimal. Whilst we will still consider bids for fixed VAS, we will only consider these if there is a known and recorded personal Injury accident record and must be agreed by NCC's Network Safety Team. We consider that SAM2/SAM3 mobile signs, which are moved around on an agreed rota, are better at reducing speed; **SAM2/SAM3 can be jointly purchased with neighbouring Parishes and would be owned and maintained by the Parish/Town Council. Please note, in line with our Speed Management Strategy, SAM2/SAM3 signs can only be used on roads subject to 30mph speed limit or less.** More information can be found on our [webpage](#).
- Part-time 20mph signs with flashing warning lights, outside schools. The County Council generally supports these as they do show a moderate reduction in average speeds during peak times. Please note that these signs are advisory only and cannot be enforced.
- "Keep Clear" carriageway markings outside schools. Applications will be considered for new school keep clear carriageway markings (which must be supported by the local school). Please note that these markings are not enforceable by Civil Parking Enforcement without a Traffic Regulation Order (which is outside the scope of the parish partnership scheme).
- New Bus Shelter. A copy of Norfolk County Councils guidance for new bus shelters is available on our web site (click on [this link](#)). **Any new shelter would be owned and maintained by the Parish/Town Council. Please note, that a bus shelter grant for 80% funding grant is currently available. Please email busshelters@norfolk.gov.uk for more information.**
- Electric Vehicle Charging Points. In the first instance we would expect Parish/Town Councils to investigate available grants, for more information please email evehicles@norfolk.gov.uk – A [webpage](#) containing useful information is now live.

Schemes can be within or immediately adjacent to the highway. If they are off highway the future responsibility for the maintenance will fall to the Parish or Town Council.

Schemes should be self-contained and not require other schemes or works to make them effective.

Schemes that support the Local Transport Plan (LTP) objectives will have a higher priority for funding. The LTP can be found on our [webpage](#).

With the County Council's agreement Parishes can employ private contractors to deliver schemes. However, any works on the highway would be subject to an agreed programme, inspection on completion, and the contractor having £10m public liability insurance.

Schemes which will not be considered

- Bids for minor traffic management changes which require a Traffic Regulation Order for example;-
 - Speed Limits
 - Waiting restrictions
 - Weight restrictions
- Bids for installation of any streetlighting
- Mirrors in the highway
- Protection of private land from travellers
- Quiet Lane zones
- Air quality units
- Parish Car parks / extensions
- Public notice boards
- Play areas
- CCTV
- Brown tourist signs
- Ditch clearing/ drainage cleansing

Information you must include in your bid

- The objective of the scheme
- Details of the scheme, its cost (and outline estimate – not just a summary) and your contribution.
- A plan/map of the extents of the scheme
- Who, and how many people will benefit.
- Local support: -
 - essential from your Local Member
 - frontages and landowners.
 - your local highway engineer
- For 'off highway' schemes, your proposals for future maintenance.

Please find a bid application form attached to this letter. When assessing your bid, we will consider the points above, but also:

- The potential for casualty reduction.
- Any ongoing maintenance costs for the County Council.

Your bids should be emailed to ppschemes@norfolk.gov.uk. If you need further information on the bid process, please state in your email that you would like a call back. For advice on the scheme practicalities and/or likely costs, please contact your local Highway Engineer.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T Dickerson".

Tom Dickerson
Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport

Copy to: Local County Councillor
Enclosed: Parish Partnership bid application form 2027/28