

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL
25 June 2026

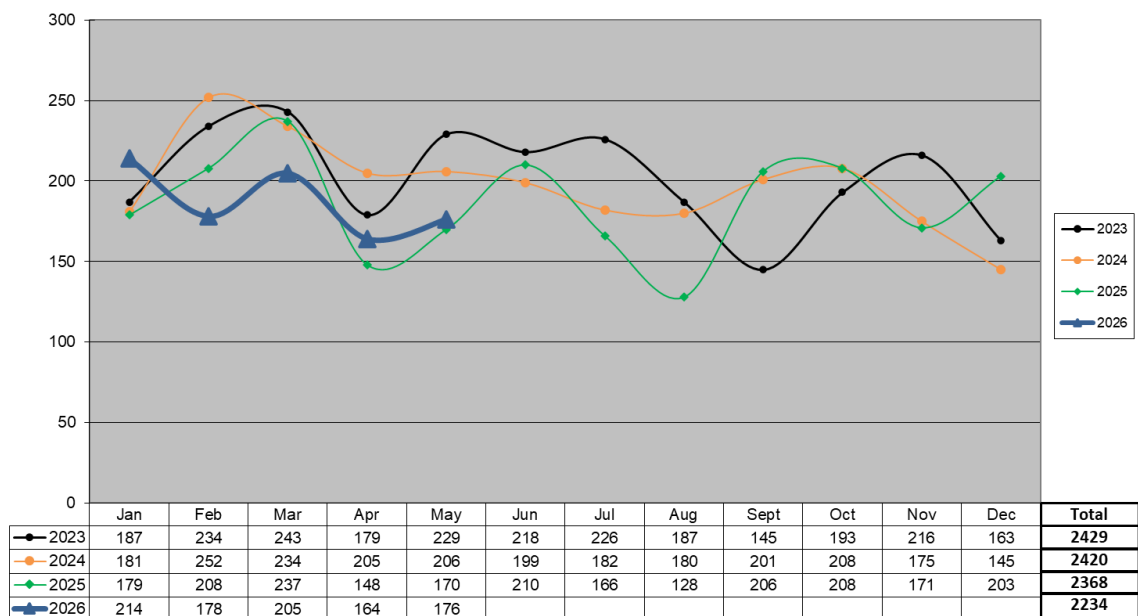
COUNCILLOR JIM MORIARTY - CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & LICENSING

Firstly, my thanks to officers for the background work in compiling this report.

Planning and Discharge of Conditions applications received

Application numbers at the end of May are almost identical compared to the same period last year, 937 applications.

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



Major and Minor dwelling applications and householder applications received comparison

	1/6/23 – 31/5/24	1/6/24 – 31/5/25	1/6/25 – 31/5/26
No. of Major dwelling applications rec'd	13	29	29
No. of Minor dwelling applications rec'd	215	265	268
No. of Householder applications rec'd	601	594	532
Total	829	888	829

*Minor dwelling applications = up to 10 units

*Major dwelling applications = over 10 units

2025/26 performance for determining planning applications 1/6/25 – 31/5/26

	National target	Performance
Major	60%	96%
Non – Major	70%	93%

Appeal Performance – appeal decisions made by The Planning Inspectorate between 1/6/25 – 31/5/26. This measure is different to the ‘quality of decision’ measure.

	Officer delegated		Committee overturns		Total	
Appeals	Dismissed	Allowed	Dismissed	Allowed	Dismissed	Allowed
Planning	34	4	3	4	37	8
	89%	11%	43%	57%	82%	18%
Enforcement	6	2				
	75%	25%				

Quality of decisions

This measure calculates the percentage of the total number of decisions made by the Local Planning Authority on applications that are then overturned at Appeal.

The Assessment period for this measure is two years up to and including the most recent quarter plus 9 months. Therefore, performance at the end of May 2026 is calculated as follows:

Planning applications determined by the Local Planning Authority between 01/9/2023 to 31/8/2025 (not the date the Local Planning Authority receives the appeal decision from the Inspectorate) plus 9 months to allow appeals to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate = 31/5/2026.

The threshold for designation for both Major and Non-Major is 10% - this is the figure that should not be exceeded, otherwise there is a risk of the Authority being designated by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

MAJOR		
No. of Decisions Issued	No. Allowed on Appeal	% Overturned
110	1	0.91%

NON-MAJOR		
No. of Decisions Issued	No. Allowed on Appeal	% Overturned
2667	22	0.82%

Revenue income for financial year 2026/27 (Planning and Discharge income)

Figures are based on a full year projected income budget of £1,453,750.

Projected	Actual	Variance with projected
April 26 – May 2026	April 26 – May 2026	
£242,292	£277,993	+£35,701

Planning Enforcement Service Performance

KPI - 85% of new enforcement cases actioned within 12 weeks of receipt

2025		2026	
August	91.5%	January	91.2%
September	94.6%	February	87.0%
October	87.5%	March	100%
November	88.2%	April	97.9%
December	94.1%	May	91.8%

Set out below is a breakdown in relation to cases received and closed for the period 1/6/25 – 31/5/26 and the current 'live' cases.

- Number of cases received incl. high hedge 560
- Total number of cases closed 579
- Total number of current 'live' cases 304

Injunction action

Due to the non-payment of contributions required by Section 106 Agreement, during 2025 three interim injunctions were authorised by the Courts with this work on-going to secure the outstanding financial obligation. A further interim injunction was approved by the Courts on 30th March 2026. The matter remains on-going.

Resources

The enforcement team is made up of 2x full time, 2x part time (18½ hours per week each) enforcement officers, and the team leader, full time.

Parish Council Annual Update Sessions

The annual Parish Council update sessions are scheduled for 16th June and 22nd June.

There are three key areas on the agenda:

- Development Management update and National Scheme of Delegation
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Parish Infrastructure Plans
- Creating a New Local Plan

Local Land and Property Gazetteer

GeoPlace has announced the winners of its 2026 Data Quality and Improvement Awards, and this year, the Address Management Team has been recognised with a Platinum Award for the third year in succession for the quality of its address data and the management of its Local Land and Property Gazetteer.

This is a significant achievement, addressing is an incredibly valuable resource for every local authority service, as it enables the identification and improvement of services and

outcomes for people and businesses. The work of the Address Custodian promotes better management and use of that data across the authority, and this award reflects the skill, attention to detail and commitment required to maintain high standards in an ever-changing dataset.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The CIL funding applications closed at 5pm on 1st May. Applications are encouraged for projects requesting between £10k and £100k – full criteria is available on our website:

[CIL funding applications](#) | [CIL funding applications](#) | [Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk](#)

The CIL Spending Panel met on 22nd June. The next round of parish payments will be sent to relevant parish councils by 28th April, and work for the FY25/26 Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) will begin after close of accounts.

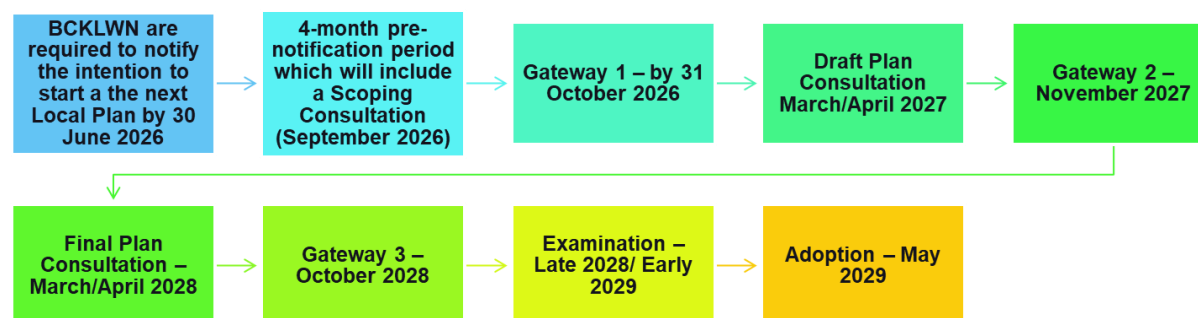
Local Plan and Planning Policy

Next Local Plan

You will recall that on the 15 January 2026 MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) wrote to the Borough Council confirming that we are required to start our next Local Plan in the new plan-making system. We must do this by publishing our Notice of Intention (NoI), to prepare the next Local Plan, by 30 June 2026 and publish our Gateway 1 self-assessment by 31 October 2026. Overall, there is a 4-month preparation period and 30-months to complete.

In between these two dates we must also carry out a Scoping Consultation (for a minimum of 21 days). This is a new stage in the process, and it is designed to be relatively high-level and light touch. This is not asking for views on draft proposals, like most consultation exercises, but is an early-stage consultation aimed at asking those with an interest in the Local Plan what they consider should be included within the next Local Plan and how they would like to be engaged/kept up to date as preparation progresses. Feedback will inform the content of Local Plan and the engagement strategy going forward. Alongside this we will also consult the three main environmental statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England, Environment Agency) on our Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report.

Below is an indicative timetable for the next Local Plan:



Work continues at pace for both Members & Officers to meet the new statutory timescales. As part of this the Local Plan Task Group and the Planning Committee have been briefed on

the new plan-making system, and an All-Member Briefing Sessions took place on 26 May. Parish Council update sessions were scheduled for 16 & 22 June.

Call for Sites

Linked to the above, we know that our Local Housing Need (LHN) has risen from broadly 550 new homes required a year to around 1,000. This will be a significant challenge to meet through the next Local Plan.

We have concluded an initial Call for Sites. We went above and beyond the usual approach to ensure that we have the best available selection of sites to choose from. This included keeping the Call open for 17 weeks, ensuring there was simple online form to complete, newspaper, poster, and extensive online promotion, as well as engaging with the development sector. This has resulted in just over 750 sites being submitted. These are for a variety of different uses including housing (a full range of types), employment, renewable energy, and open space. I would like to thank those who took the time to engage and submitted their site for consideration.

Assessment will take place in due course. Officers are actively exploring the use of AI technology to assist with process given resource pressures and not least the new statutory timescales.

As part of the Scoping Consultation the intention is to publish a map of all the sites that have been proposed, and what they have been proposed for, and allow people to provide early comments. We'll also re-open the Call for Sites to provide another opportunity for sites to be submitted.

Five Year Housing Land Supply

The Government requires local planning authorities to significantly boost the supply of new homes. The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) (December 2024) requires the Borough Council to maintain a sufficient housing land supply, for at least the next five years.

The latest 5-year land supply position has been calculated for the 2025-26 monitoring period and shows our position as follows (against a minimum of five years' worth), for the period 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2031:

- For plan-making (that is, preparation of the next Local Plan), the housing land supply is **6.9 years**; or
- For decision making (that is, determining planning applications), the housing land supply is **6.2 years**.
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The 5-year housing land supply data has been calculated with reference to the (latest) published housing trajectory. Further detail of which are available [here](#). For an explanation of why there are two different figures please see paragraph 78 of the NPPF linked earlier, in summary a 20% buffer is required to be applied for decision-making purposes due to the change in our Local Housing Need (LHN) figures. This is the same reason that a new Local Plan is required to be prepared.

Housing completions for 2025/26 = 708

Neighbourhood Planning Update

As of June 2026, there are 25 “made” (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans in place, covering 28 parishes. This includes three Neighbourhood Plans (Marshland St James, Syderstone and The Walpoles) adopted during the 2025-26 financial year.

Two further Neighbourhood Plans are expected to come forward to referendum in the coming months. Changes to the “basic conditions”, the legal tests that Neighbourhood Plans are required to meet, have entailed the preparation of revised basic conditions statements for the two plans which (in turn) has required the examinations of each to be extended. Further details are set out below:

Neighbourhood plans that have reached submission stage (Regulation 15) and are expected to proceed to referendum during 2026-2027 financial year

	Current position
Docking Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2039	Submitted by Docking Parish Council for independent examination, 14 August 2025 . “Regulation 16” consultation, 29 September – 10 November 2025; examination autumn 2025 – summer 2026; referendum/ adoption, late summer/ early autumn 2026
Walpole Cross Keys Neighbourhood Plan Review 2022-2038	Re-submitted by Walpole Cross Keys Parish Council for independent examination, 26 August 2025 . “Regulation 16” consultation, 29 September – 10 November 2025; examination autumn 2025 – summer 2026; referendum/ adoption, , late summer/ early autumn 2026

Other Emerging Neighbourhood Plans

	Current position
Dersingham	Neighbourhood Area first designated October 2017. During 2025-2026 moves to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan have been revived (since autumn 2025). Anticipated Regulation 14 consultation during 2026-2027.
Great Massingham	Neighbourhood Area first designated June 2021. During 2025-2026 moves to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan have been revived (since summer 2025). Anticipated Regulation 14 consultation during 2026-2027.
Ingoldisthorpe	Various draft evidence documents under preparation (e.g. Design Codes, Housing Needs Assessment) prepared, 2024-2025; anticipated Regulation 14 consultation during 2026-2027

Pentney	1st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation March-May 2023, following which Plan has been significantly amended (e.g. due to adoption of Local Plan 2021-2040). Preliminary 1st draft Plan and draft Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report signed off February 2026, allowing plan to proceed to Regulation 14. New Regulation 14 consultation anticipated summer/ autumn 2026; submission late-2026.
Shouldham	Preliminary 1st draft Plan and draft Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report signed off October 2025, allowing plan to proceed to Regulation 14. Regulation 14 consultation, 20 April – 1 June 2026; submission late summer/ early autumn 2026.
In addition, several other Parishes are designated Neighbourhood Areas, but progress with plan-making is unknown, or at an early stage	New Neighbourhood Plans: Burnham Overy; Outwell; Tilney St Lawrence; West Dereham Neighbourhood Plan reviews: Hunstanton; North Rington & West Winch

Overall, it is anticipated that the Docking Neighbourhood Plan and Walpole Cross Keys Neighbourhood Plan review will come forward to referendum during the 2026-2027 financial year. Other active emerging Neighbourhood Plans (Dersingham; Great Massingham; Ingoldisthorpe; Pentney; Shouldham) may come forward to referendum during the 2027-2028 financial year.

Despite financial support for developing Neighbourhood Plans, previously provided by Locality, having been withdrawn (reported to the Council on 31 July 2025), Neighbourhood Plans continue to come forward. Withdrawal of Locality funding may impact the ability of some communities to progress their planning work, and alternative support mechanisms may need to be considered going forward. However, in the short-term Neighbourhood Planning remains popular, but the impact of withdrawal of Locality funding and/ or changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (expected to come into place later during 2026) upon future Neighbourhood Plan preparation and/ or reviews in the medium/ longer term, remains to be seen.

LICENSING

- The Tobacco and Vapes Bill received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026 and is now the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026. This is intended to introduce a “smoke-free generation” by banning tobacco sales to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009. It strengthens rules on vapes and nicotine products (including under 18 sales bans, proxy purchasing offences, and vending machine restrictions), introduces a comprehensive ban on advertising and sponsorship, and allows tighter controls on packaging, flavours and displays. It also creates a retail licensing scheme, and enables the expansion of smoke-free and vape-free public areas. Implementation is expected to begin in late 2026, with the main age of sale change expected to take effect from 1 January 2027.
- We have started the first round of inspections at all Gambling premises licensed within the borough. Premises includes - Adult Gaming Centres, Betting shops, Family Entertainment Centres & Bingo Premises. We are also carrying out a review of gaming machines within licensed Club premises.
- Government’s consultation on the proposal to move the taxi licensing regime from Local Authorities to Local Transport Authorities ran from 8 January to 1 April 2026. As yet there has been no update from Government.
- A Taxi Drivers licence was suspended by Members of the Licensing & Appeals Panel in May pending the pass of the Knowledge test. No further information can be provided due to the confidential nature of information.
- The Government has announced a draft Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) Bill in the King’s Speech, setting out the most significant overhaul of taxi and PHV legislation in more than a century. Ministers say the reforms will modernise an outdated and fragmented system, strengthen public safety, and ensure passengers receive consistent, reliable services wherever they travel in England.
- Government has announced World Cup Football extensions - When a home nation (England or Scotland) is playing, there will be a national extension to licensing hours:
 - from 11:00pm to 1:00am for kick-offs from 5:00pm up to 9:00pm
 - from 11:00pm to 2:00am for kick-offs after 9:00pm up to 10:00pm