

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

25th June 2026

COUNCILLOR SUE LINTERN - CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND EVENTS

For the period 14th March to June 12th 2026

Volunteer Recognition

I would like to begin my report by recording my sincere thanks to the many volunteers who make such a significant contribution to our borough.

I recently attended the Volunteer Appreciation Evening, where we celebrated the dedication and commitment of the individuals who support our historic buildings, cultural venues, events and community initiatives. Volunteers are at the heart of so much that happens across West Norfolk. Whether preserving our heritage, supporting events, improving our environment or contributing in countless other ways, they make an invaluable and lasting difference to our communities.

Between January and May 2026, volunteers contributed 5,736 hours across the King's Lynn organisations and projects listed below alone. This remarkable figure illustrates the invaluable contribution volunteers make to the town's cultural, heritage and community activities.

Venue	Volunteer Hours
Guildhall	865
Town Guides	1,072
Baden Powell	812
King's Lynn Minster	2,200
Marriott's Warehouse Trust	200
Hanse Festival	125
Jewish Cemetery	252
Red Mount	71
Community Garden	24
Administration	76
Supporting The Walks	39
Total	5,736

King's Lynn Hanse Festival

The King's Lynn Hanse Festival took place on 24 May and once again successfully celebrated the town's important Hanseatic heritage.

The traditional parade concluded at Hanse House before a full programme of activities throughout the day. Entertainment included Nelson's Shantymen and Sirens at the Helm, the Cambridge Waites and Lithuanian dancers, alongside a variety of family activities.

Visitors also enjoyed preview screenings from the forthcoming film *Into the Mystic*, based on the story of Margery Kempe, followed by a q&a session with the filmmakers. Dr Paul Richards delivered an informative presentation on King's Lynn's

Hanseatic history, while trips on the Baden Powell and the local ferry proved extremely popular.

Despite the exceptionally warm weather, the festival was another successful celebration of the town's heritage and community spirit.

West Norfolk WyrdFest

I am pleased to report the launch of a new festival, West Norfolk WyrdFest, organised by CULTure Babylon and taking place throughout October before the Fear in the Fens programme.

The festival will celebrate folklore, mystery and local history through theatre performances, workshops and community activities across multiple venues in the town. A particular highlight will be the "Witches Quilt", created by local artists to commemorate women who were historically accused of witchcraft. Additional Borough Council activities will include escape room experiences at Stories of Lynn and family-focused events such as potion-making workshops for younger visitors. The festival is also being supported by Downham Market Arts Association.

King's Lynn Culture Steering Group

The King's Lynn Culture Steering Group continues to develop its long-term direction and strategic objectives. Current work includes the development of a dedicated website to improve collaboration between arts organisations, encourage partnership working and provide information on cultural activities across the borough. The group is also reviewing its Terms of Reference and future priorities and recently received an introduction to the work of the Hanse League and King's Lynn's role within it.

North Norfolk Cultural Partnership Conference

I attended the North Norfolk Cultural Partnership Conference, which provided valuable insight into current challenges and opportunities across the cultural sector. Particular emphasis was placed on volunteer recruitment and retention, including innovative ways of recognising and rewarding volunteers. An engaging presentation on film and digital media also highlighted the growing importance of short-form video content and effective social media engagement in reaching wider audiences.

Town of Culture

Work continues to progress on the development of the Town of Culture initiative, including the preparation of Terms of Reference and the identification of key priorities and flagship projects.

Guildhall

Work continues to progress well at the Guildhall site.

The live video feed of the restoration works remains extremely popular and continues to be used as part of educational visits through No. 29, encouraging residents and visitors alike to engage with the project. The forthcoming events programme has now been finalised, with the Dragon Arts Club fully booked for the half-term period. A wide range of school visits and educational events are planned, alongside celebrations for Armin Day in September and Heritage Open Day. King's Lynn's Shakespeare Week has become one of the most successful programmes of its kind nationally and has already been confirmed for 2027. The highly successful Dragon Festival will also return later in the year.

Custom House

I recently toured the Custom House to review the planned refurbishment works and future use of this iconic building.

It is important that its redevelopment both preserves and celebrates King's Lynn's rich maritime heritage while ensuring a sustainable future for the building.

Lynn Museum

The new exhibition, *Secrets from the Store*, is now open and will run until next summer. The exhibition showcases a fascinating selection of items that are rarely seen by the public, having previously been held in the museum's collections and storage. Highlights include a magnificent dolls' house, a money bank, drawings, toys, fans and many other intriguing artefacts, offering visitors a unique glimpse into the breadth of the museum's holdings.

The exhibition has been curated by Jan, who has done an excellent job in bringing together this diverse and engaging collection, and I would encourage anyone with an interest in our local heritage to pay it a visit.

Hunstanton Events Programme

In April I attended the launch of Hunstanton's summer events programme, which includes several exciting new additions alongside established favourites.

New events include a Beer and Gin Festival featuring local breweries and distilleries together with live music throughout the day. Other highlights include the return of the Open Air Cinema, Family Fun Days, "Peter Piper Picked Some Litter", Swim Safe sessions promoting sea safety, and Hunstanton's Mad Tea Party celebrating Afternoon Tea Week. The programme will also feature Beats by the Beach, Battle of the Bands and the ever-popular Soap Box Derby.

Subsequently, I visited Hunstanton alongside the Senior Tourism Officer and Cultural Champion to meet with local organisations and discuss future opportunities for the town. The visit included an inspection of the promenade improvement works and consideration of their potential impact on tourism, together with visits to the Princess Theatre, the Heritage Centre, Le Strange Arms and the Observatory. These visits and discussions provided valuable insight into the opportunities and challenges facing the town, while highlighting the significant investment and commitment of local organisations working to support Hunstanton's future development.

The Workshop Theatre Company

I was delighted to attend a special performance by The Workshop Theatre Company at its new home in the Old Library.

Having recently participated in the National Theatre Connections Festival, it was encouraging to see the continued success and development of this important local youth theatre organisation.

King's Lynn to Walsingham Way Pilgrimage Trail

The King's Lynn to Walsingham Way project was officially launched on 6 June under the leadership of Canon Dimond and the St Nicholas Parish Trust, with continuing support from the Borough Council's Tourism Team.

The 29-mile walking and cycling route promotes heritage, green tourism, physical wellbeing and support for local village businesses. Beginning at King's Lynn Minster, the route follows the historic pilgrimage traditionally travelled by English monarchs prior to the Reformation and can be joined at various points along its length.

Directional waymarkers have now been installed throughout the route with the support of Norfolk County Council Highways.

The project represents an excellent example of partnership working to promote both tourism and local heritage.

Stoke Ferry Question Time

On 6 June I chaired the inaugural Question Time event in Stoke Ferry, focusing on the history and future of farming in West Norfolk.

The panel brought together expertise from environmental management, agriculture,

drainage and sustainable farming practices, resulting in an informative and balanced discussion on the opportunities and challenges facing the sector.

Parish Council Engagement

I continue to engage regularly with parish councils across the borough and provide assistance wherever appropriate. Recent visits have included Crimplesham and Fincham, with ongoing dialogue helping to strengthen relationships.

Events Team

The Events Team has been working extensively behind the scenes to prepare for the busy summer programme. Significant work goes into ensuring that all events are delivered safely and successfully, including health and safety planning, road closures, marshalling, environmental management and logistical support.

In addition to delivering Borough Council events, the team provides invaluable assistance to numerous community organisations and local event organisers, helping to ensure a vibrant programme of activities across West Norfolk.

Borough History Film Project

Councillor Ware and I have been tasked with developing a film documenting the history of the Borough Council, with particular emphasis on the relationship between the Borough and its communities over time.

We are working with respected local filmmakers Martin Little and Robert Fuller and are currently developing the project's structure to ensure it reflects a broad range of historical themes and perspectives. As the project progresses, we would be delighted to hear from anyone who has interesting stories, memories or historical anecdotes that could help bring the Borough's history to life and enrich the final film.

Summary

The period has seen continued progress across a wide range of tourism, cultural and heritage initiatives. The strength of our volunteer community remains one of our borough's greatest assets, while new festivals, partnership projects and strategic developments continue to enhance West Norfolk's cultural offer.

Alongside investment in key heritage assets and a strong programme of events, collaborative working across organisations and communities is helping to strengthen both visitor experiences and local pride. I look forward to reporting further progress in the coming months.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

King's Lynn & West Norfolk Area Museums committee
North Norfolk Arts Forum
Water ski event
Hunstanton Festival
Hansa Committee
Festival Too

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

16/3 – Hanse committee
16/3 – History project meeting

17/3 – North Norfolk Cultural Partnership Conference

17/3 - Cabinet sifting

19/3 – Portfolio meeting

19/3 – Crimplesham PC

24/3 – Planning training

24/3 – NCC election briefing

25/3 – Portfolio meeting

26/3 – Cabinet briefing

26/3 – Full Council

31/3 – Wyrđ Fest meeting

31/3 – Guildhall meeting

31/3 – R&D

1/4 - Hanse Committee

2/4 - Scrutiny training

7/4 - member training

8/4 - Cabinet briefing

20/4 – Hunstanton Events launch

20/4 – Portfolio meeting

21/4 – Local Plan task group

22/4 - History project meeting

22/4 – Portfolio meeting

22/4 – Tour of projection sites

22/4 – Cabinet briefing

22/4 – Hanse committee sponsor event

23/4 – Portfolio meeting

23/4 – Cabinet

28/4 - History project meeting

28/4 – LGR training

29/4 – Hanse committee

29/4 – Summer Events season briefing

11/5 – Planning committee

12/5 - Kings Lynn masterplan briefing

13/5 – Custom House tour

13/5 – Guildhall project briefing

14/5 – Annual Full Council

16/5 – The Magicians House event

18/5 – Hanse committee

19/5 – Local Plan task group

21/5 – Cabinet sifting

23/5 – The Workshop theatre group event

24/5 – Hanse Festival

27/5 - History project meeting

27/5 – Portfolio meeting

1/6 – Planning committee

2/6 – Volunteer Day at the Guild Hall

2/6 – R&D

3/6 – visit to Hunstanton

4/6 – Cabinet briefing

5/6 – Cultural Steering Group

6/6 – Question Time at Stoke Ferry

9/6 – Cabinet

10/6 – Guildhall project board meeting

10/6 – Volunteer reception

11/6 – Town of Culture catch up

12/6 – Lynn museum

