

Councillor Joshua Osborne: Report for Downham Old Town 9 September 2025

Downham Market Heritage Day

I have been pleased to support the upcoming heritage day on Sunday 21st September financially and look forward to the day itself as it has undertaken extensive organisation from Downham Town Council and Discover Downham. It will be an excellent opportunity to see lots of normally hidden sights.

The week before also has Downham WordFest which should be great as ever for literary entertainment.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Downham-Market-WordFest/100092843727811/>

Local Government Reorganisation

The Council and the other districts in favour of a three unitary council model will release their business case tomorrow on 10th September 2025. Councillors will have several meetings in which to scrutinise these extensive proposals before voting in a special council meeting on the 18th September.

Once it is submitted to Government, the Ministers will then decide on what form the local government reorganisation should take in Norfolk, with a decision expected in the winter or early spring of 2026.

Council Work

I have been involved in several panel meetings in recent weeks and will be going to several more before the month is out. The Borough Council's Budget has thus far proceeded well, with projections slightly better than forecast. This is also true of the second homes council tax increase, which has been bringing in more than projected due to reduced behavioural change of homeowners. It is good that our services can benefit from this, although clearly there are huge challenges across the country, especially with services like social care that will in a few years come under a unitary authority.