

Joshua Osborne: Borough Councillor for Downham Old Town

Report to Town Council October 2026

Toilets Update

A successful meeting was held between the Business Operations Manager of the Borough Council and the Deputy Clerk regarding some of the issues identified by the Town Council with the toilets. The Borough are looking at options to improve the fan, flooring, and the lip on the disabled toilet and I will keep the Town Council updated on the situation.

QEH Clinical Strategy

Progress is being made with the QEH in Lynn, as work progresses on the car park. A clinical strategy is being drawn up for Norfolk by Norfolk and Waveney University Hospitals Group in the coming months. This is to determine the extent of services across Norfolk, and it is important that people take part in the consultation to demonstrate the benefits of retaining as wide a range of services at the QEH in the future. At the last Borough Council meeting we passed unanimously a motion supporting the retention of A&E, acute medicine, emergency general surgery, critical care, anaesthesia and emergency theatres, consultant-led maternity and obstetrics, paediatrics and appropriate neonatal care, trauma and orthopaedics, core acute medical specialities, stroke assessment and inpatient care, and comprehensive diagnostic services.

On Saturday 17th October, from 11:30 at the Tuesday Market Place, there is a human A & E queue being formed that people may wish to be involved with. This is to demonstrate the issues that might be caused if some services are reduced and residents have to travel much further across Norfolk.

The following survey is open until 6th November. Fuller answers can be sent to the email below.

<https://healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk/get-involved/future-of-healthcare-norfolk-and-waveney/>

enquiries@healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk

Foodbank Meeting

Shortly after the last Town Council meeting, I attended an engagement evening at Downham Food Bank. It was good to also see multiple town councillors and borough councillors in attendance, as well as our MP Terry Jermy. We heard about the vital work the foodbank has been doing and saw some of their plans to fundraise in the coming months.

Community Project Fund Update

This Friday a committee is meeting to discuss which community project fund applications to recommend to Cabinet. 48 submissions have been made with a value of £651,833 (out of a budget of £500,000). Recommendations will be made, and then Cabinet will make decisions in November. 3 of Downham's Borough councillors have made 5 endorsements between them for local projects in our area, and several have been ranked quite highly on the scoring by officers.