

Councillor Joshua Osborne: Report for Downham Old Town 20 May 2025

Rural Prosperity Fund 2025/2026

This Government scheme is administered by the Borough Council and provides grants of £10,000-£50,000 to fund up to 80% of the cost of eligible projects in rural areas across West Norfolk. The website map says that Downham Market is classed as rural for the purposes of this project, as it is outside of King's Lynn.

This is for capital projects and must be something new or an improvement, and is open to organisations such as parish and town councils, charities, and community groups. If you are interested in improving areas or delivering events, then you can apply online at:

<https://forms.west-norfolk.gov.uk/REPFCOMMUNITIESEXPRESSIONOFINTERESTFORM/launch>

It opened yesterday for expressions of interest and will continue to be open until 16 June 2025.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government has given some interim feedback and the Borough Council continues to work on more detailed proposals for the three-council unitary alongside another five district councils in Norfolk. This work will continue in the months ahead as we work to create the best solution for residents to be well represented and served by efficient services.

VE Day

It was great to see the efforts in Downham and across the Borough to celebrate VE Day and I took part in the Civic Procession in King's Lynn. A huge number of young people from the cadets, Scouts, and other organisations did a tremendous job.

Mayor Making

Congratulations to Cllr. Michael Lane and Cllr. Barry Hobbs for their elections as Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Downham Market.

I was also very pleased to vote for Cllr. Andy Bullen to be our new Borough Mayor last week, and wish him and Steve Bearshaw all the best with their year.