



THE ROYDON ROUND-UP

The newsletter for Roydon Parish Council

Issue 16: October 2024

Council issues advice on watercourses

Winter is approaching and with it the risk of heavy rain and flooding, so owners of land with ditches and other watercourses are being reminded of their responsibilities to help prevent flooding of properties, land and roads in the parish.

The law requires that all watercourses including ditches must be kept clear to allow water to flow freely.

Landowners could face a claim for damages as a result of any loss or damage resulting from flooding that can be attributed to their watercourses being blocked or obstructed.

In winter repeated flooding and freezing can damage road surfaces, leading to potholes, while ice can be dangerous for all road users.

The council is writing to landowners to encourage them to act on any problems but where work isn't carried out we will work with our other local authorities to consider further action.

Landowner responsibilities - known as 'riparian rights and responsibilities' - include:

- Maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse (including trees and shrubs growing on banks), and clearing any debris.
- Keeping the bed and banks clear of obstruction.
- Keeping structures safe and clear, including culverts.

Other residents can help in the effort to prevent flooding by not dumping waste, including garden clippings and other litter, into ditches.

Norfolk County Council has advice for people with riparian responsibilities at bit.ly/rpc-floods



Update on pylon plans

Roydon Parish Council submitted an objection to National Grid's plans for a **network of 50-metre pylons running from Norwich to Tilbury**, which would pass through the village, during the official consultation that was held this summer.

We called on them to pause work to allow for a full evaluation of alternatives, such as an offshore grid and underground cabling. We also raised concerns about environmental impacts and the thousands of daily HGV movements that would be needed on our local roads during construction.

However, the Grid says it aims to submit a Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate in 2025.

Our full objection can be found on our website.

Join our autumn litter pick

Our annual autumn village litter pick this year takes place on **Saturday 12 October from 9.30am to 11.30am**.

To take part in our drive to keep Roydon looking its best in the coming months, **meet at the Village Hall on the High Road at 9.30am** to be allocated a location, and to collect rubbish bags, grabbers and hi-viz vests.

There'll be a pop-up cafe at the village hall in the morning with free refreshments available for litter pickers. All residents are welcome to come along for a cuppa but we ask non-pickers for a donation to help pay for the refreshments.

Weedkiller and pesticide use in Roydon

Residents are reminded that **weedkillers and pesticides they use at home must not be used in public spaces**, such as verges, roads and footpaths.

Using these materials in such areas risks exposing people and animals, including pets, to any toxins they contain; poses a pollution risk to watercourses and other environments; and damages the biodiversity of our village.

Also, licences are required for the use of professional pesticide products in public spaces and breaches of rules can be reported for prosecution.

Our warning follows the discovery earlier this year that someone was spraying weedkillers at various locations in the parish, including around the village sign on the High Road.

The council is adding planting to improve biodiversity and our environment, and the use of chemicals could kill these plants and waste the efforts of our volunteers.

If you have a concern about overgrown paths or other areas in the village, please get in touch with us or one of our other local authorities so that we can investigate.

New parish councillor

Please welcome **George Waterman**, who became a Roydon parish councillor earlier this year. He was co-opted to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Pam Murton.

In his own words: "Living just across the border from Roydon in Diss, I have come to really value the beautiful spaces found within Roydon Parish. I am part of the team managing Quaker Wood, and have also invested my time keeping The Loke and Roydon Fen clean and tidy through my litter-picking efforts, alongside growing and donating trees and plants for Roydon Parish, as can be seen both on the High Road and along the Loke.

"I'm hugely grateful to have been given the opportunity to represent the needs of Roydon residents through the Parish Council, and am particularly excited to see how my connections with the Town Council in Diss can be used to create further co-operation on projects between our two communities going forward."

Parish council meetings

Parish council meetings are usually held on the **last Tuesday of every month** at 7pm in the Parish Room at St Remigius Church. The exception is December, when the meeting is on the 17th.

Changes to the calendar plus agendas and minutes are posted on our website.

There's an opportunity for residents to raise issues at each meeting.

Roydon Parish Council website:

<https://roydon-southnorfolk-pc.gov.uk/>

Roydon Parish Council on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/roydondissparishcouncil/

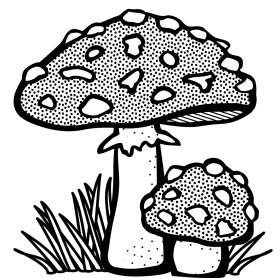
Email Roydon Parish Council:

clerk@roydon-southnorfolk-pc.gov.uk

Biodiversity - and fungi

Roydon Parish Council is currently developing a **Biodiversity Action Plan** to define what the village can do to help combat the crisis in nature. We're looking at a range of actions including education, planting and verge management. More details will be published soon, including ways in which residents can help.

In the meantime, **Norfolk Wildlife Trust is asking us to go in search of fungi** this autumn and record any sightings we make in our local gardens, woodlands, heaths and green spaces.



In particular, we're asked to look out for:

- Fly agaric
- Giant puffball
- Jelly ear

Reports can be made online and more information found at Norfolk Wildlife Trust's site **<https://bit.ly/rpc-nwt>**