

Cllr Delme Thompson:
Report for Pulham St Mary Parish Council, March 2024.

Play Street Grants – Norfolk County Council

Play streets (or 'playing out' sessions) are neighbour-led, short, road closures, creating a safe space for children to play freely together on their doorstep. Any street is eligible provided it is not on an active bus route.

Key features:

- Resident-led and organised
- Short, regular road closures
- Free, child-led play
- All neighbours consulted and included
- Road legally and safely closed to through traffic
- Stewarded by residents
- Car access at walking pace
- Simple, 'normal' – not a street party!

Grant available up to £75 to fund games and sports equipment and promotional activities to get the event up and running.

For further information and advice please visit [Play Streets](#). Grant applications made through [Norfolk County Council](#).

Council Budget 2024/25

At the full council meeting on 21 February, I was pleased to see cross party support for a 2024/25 budget.

I was particularly pleased to support proposals for additional investment in key areas in the coming year, including:

- An 854,000 VAT refund on leisure services, to be topped up by the council and reinvested directly into leisure, at £250,000 a year for the next four years.
- £355,000 for the Household Support Fund which includes discretionary council tax support for hard pressed families.
- An additional £30,00 for the Help Hub.
- £100,000 towards the district council's role in flood prevention.
- £70,000 to strengthen enforcement of planning conditions.
- An additional £100,000 for the CAF Fund, with the limit for an individual application raised to £20,000.

New Council Leader

Following the recent announcement that Council leader John Fuller, will be joining the House of Lords, he has confirmed that he will step down as leader of the Conservative group and South Norfolk Council. The Conservative group will now select a new leader in the coming weeks, with details to be announced in due course.