

A Town Council is a statutory body and is the most local level of government. It has an important role in promoting the town, representing its interests and supporting the work of different groups in the community.

What does a Town Council do?

Town Councils have a number of formal powers. Many provide allotments, and look after playing fields, village greens and other types of leisure facilities. They have a hand in maintaining or guarding rights of way, bus shelters, public seats and sometimes street lighting. Councils are often concerned with the provision of halls and community buildings.

The Town Council can do these things by actually providing them itself or by funding other organisations, such as a charity, to do them through grants or contracts.

There are three tiers of government, each with different responsibilities (sometimes called powers and duties in Council speak).

The bullets below set out the functions and management that each local authority has traditionally undertaken.

Norfolk County Council www.norfolk.gov.uk tel: 0344 800 8020

- Education and schools
- Fire Service
- Highways, including potholes, gritting: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem> (also includes reporting street light problems)
- Libraries, recreation, arts and museums
- Public rights of way
- Social Services and Youth Services
- Some Street Lighting
- Strategic planning and some planning applications (mainly mineral extraction and waste disposal sites)
- Trading Standards
- Transport
- Waste Recycling Centres

Breckland District Council <http://www.breckland.gov.uk> tel: 01362 656870

- Car Parks owned by the District Council
- Electoral Services
- Environmental Services, e.g. noise, pest control
- Licensing
- Help and support for businesses
- Housing Services
- Planning Services
- Recycling, food waste and residual waste collections
- Restaurant and takeaway inspections
- Some Street Lighting
- Sports and leisure
- Street cleaning and dealing with fly tipping

To report a problem to Breckland Council: <http://www.breckland.gov.uk/reportit>



Watton Town Council

Wayland Hall, Middle Street, Watton, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 6AG

Telephone: 01953 881007

Website: www.wattontowncouncil.gov.uk

e-mail: clerk@wattontowncouncil.gov.uk

- Allotments at St Mary's Church and Thetford Road
- Bus shelters in the High Street
- Cemetery at Church Road
- Church Walk
- Clock Tower
- Grants to organisations which operate within Watton
- Market
- Play areas at Bridle Way, Lovell Gardens and Watton Sports Centre
- Open spaces at Jubilee Garden, Memorial Garden, Shire Horse Way
- Compile responses to Planning and Local Authority consultations
- Public toilets
- The Town Council as Trustee of the Charlotte Harvey Trust manages the Youth & Community Centre in Harvey Street

Town Councillors know the area and can (and increasingly do) represent their views to other authorities like the District and County Council, Health Authorities and Police and Fire Authorities. The Town Council is consulted on planning applications, which include work to Listed Buildings, and is also consulted on such things as schools and roads.

Watton Safer Neighbourhood Team

Please also note for non-emergencies the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team for Watton can be contacted on 101 or via e-mail - For further details see:

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/your-area/watton>

All authorities attempt to work together to address concerns regarding anti-social behaviour.