



Latest update on events from your County Councillor Tom FitzPatrick

Hempton Parish Council

30th November 2022

Autumn Statement and Local Government

Local government already faces wage, fuel and other price pressures in delivering services. The Statement promises increases in spending across health, education and social care as well as continuing big ticket infrastructure projects.

It was acknowledged that social care is critical, particularly in its role in reducing pressures on the NHS. Although £1bn in new funding to support social care for 2023-24 has been promised, more than half of the funding to support social care packages will come from 'further flexibility for local authorities on council tax and from delaying the rollout of adult social care charging reform to October 2025. The Autumn Statement promised an acceleration of infrastructure investment across the board to support both growth and energy efficiency with an emphasis on road, rail, broadband and 5G – with no cuts to capital budgets in the next two years and maintaining funding for three years in cash terms.

The Autumn Statement reiterated a commitment to the Levelling Up and devolution approach with an announcement of a bidding round two focused on £1.7bn funding for priority local infrastructure projects.

Possible elected Leader for Norfolk

In his recent Autumn Statement, the Chancellor announced that the Government has agreed a devolution deal that will bring an elected mayor to Suffolk, and that he hoped to be able to announce further deals with Cornwall, Norfolk and an area in the North East, subject to local agreement. Talks are ongoing between Norfolk County Council and central Government exploring devolving further budgets and powers to Norfolk with an elected Leader of Norfolk County Council and there will be consultation with electors.

COVID-19 Trusted sources of information

The most recent **verified data on cases in the UK and Norfolk** is available from [Public Health England](#) and [Norfolk Insights](#).

Everyone has a key role in promoting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and www.gov.uk/coronavirus as trusted sources of information to the public. It is

important to ensure people go to the right sources of information and keep up to date with how to look after themselves.

Keep up to date: We have [a dedicated webpage for coronavirus updates](#) in Norfolk and impact on Norfolk County Council services.

Service updates: The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#).

Public Health - Avian flu update

Please share this information with anybody you know that keeps poultry and encourage them to register the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) poultry register.

Further cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been confirmed in Norfolk. The latest Norfolk outbreaks were confirmed on 11 November. Details [here](#).

Government information regarding the latest situation on Avian Influenza, and the Prevention Zone requirements, can be found [here](#).

Mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds were introduced to all areas of England from 7 November, following a decision by the United Kingdom's Chief Veterinary Officer. The order extends the mandatory housing measures already in force in Norfolk to the whole of England following an increase in the national risk of bird flu in wild birds to very high. Further information [here](#).

If you have 50 or more birds, you are legally required to register but you can choose to register voluntarily if you have less than that. By doing so you will be kept informed on the latest bird flu information so you can take action to reduce the risk to your birds, which in turn reduces the risk to all UK poultry. It's quick and easy to register [here](#).

Advice for the public

The UK Health Security Agency says that avian influenza is primarily a disease of birds and the risk to the general public's health is very low. The Food Standards Agency says that avian influenza poses a very low food safety risk, and that properly cooked poultry and poultry products, such as eggs, are safe to eat.

- The public are advised to keep to designated footpaths, not to feed wild birds, and keep dogs on leads. Don't touch sick or dead birds, their feathers, or their droppings. If you see a dead bird, please report it to Defra's helpline on 03459 335577. Sick birds should be reported to the RSPCA (0300 1234 999) who may be able to help.

Communities - Government help for households

The government has worked with a range of Internet Service Providers and Mobile Network Operators to deliver low-cost broadband and phone service packages, called social tariffs, for those on low incomes. Social tariffs are available for people claiming Universal Credit, Pension Credit and some other benefits, with some providers offering deals from £15 a month. More details [here](#).

- The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is encouraging councils to raise awareness of these products and has produced a [stakeholder toolkit](#) which includes social media materials, posters and leaflets to help councils share this information across their communications channels.
- The government's [Help for Households campaign](#) homepage brings together over 40 support schemes that the public may be able to access depending on eligibility. There are also online tools for the public to check the support they might be eligible for and how to access it.

Communities - cost of living support this winter

Many residents will be worried about how to pay their bills and purchase food this winter. The Communities team have been planning and implementing a range of support offers for some time, to ensure that there is a good range of easily accessible help at hand for households.

A huge array of information and links to support that is available in the County this winter can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving and includes information on:

Norfolk Assistance Scheme can help with support and financial assistance for food, energy, water, and other household essentials including white goods. People with no internet access call 0344 800 8020. The fastest way is to apply online [here](#).

Cost of living vouchers – Families eligible for free school meals now receive a monthly 'cost of living' voucher. The vouchers will be £15 per month per child with an additional payment of £30 per child in December. The vouchers are provided by Edenred and can be used in all supermarkets for essentials including clothing.

If you think a family should be receiving these vouchers and isn't please encourage them to contact the child's school or look online [here](#).

Nourishing Norfolk

Norfolk Community Foundation's Nourishing Norfolk food hubs provide a range of food support. More details on the food hubs [here](#).

Your Norfolk Advice Network is a free, independent information and advice service, providing easy and quick access to the services you need. The service is open to all adults in Norfolk, including family members, carers, and professionals seeking information and advice. Call 0333 996 8333 or email helpline@ncan.co.uk

Libraries - Hot drinks will be available during staffed hours and there will be some activities and creative things to do and learn, or you can just sit back and relax and enjoy some company. Libraries are offering warm spaces along with free warm and well bags containing a scarf, hat, gloves, blanket, socks, and a hot water bottle and also toiletries and sanitary products to go – just pick them up from the library. To find your nearest library visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

Business - Business rates revaluation 2023

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has updated the rateable values of all business, and other non-domestic, property in England and Wales.

The information gives the future rateable values for non-domestic properties in England that will take effect from 1 April 2023.

You can check the factual information used for your valuation and tell the VOA if anything is wrong. The rateable value for your business property is not what you pay in business rates or rent. Your local council uses the rateable value to calculate your business rates bill.

Charitable relief means that registered charities will only pay 20% of their business rates bill. Many charities will not pay any business rates at all.

Further information [here](#)

Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System (ICS)

Launch of the Carers Identity Passport

The Carers Identity Passport has been produced working with carers and staff across the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated System. The passport will enable carers who have a real understanding of the needs of the person they care for, to feel recognised, valued and respected by staff within healthcare settings.

It was launched last week, on Carer's Rights Day, 24 November 2022. For more information about the Carers Identity Passport and the launch event, email info@carersvoice.org

Further information about support for Carers is available from Norfolk County Council [here](#)

Children and Young People

Thousands of children and young people across Norfolk are expected to take part in a new survey to help local services improve their communications work.

The survey, being run by the Children and Young People Strategic Alliance and available on the Norfolk County Council website, aims to help leaders in local public services gain a better understanding of how children and young people in Norfolk want to be involved in decision-making about issues that are important to them.

- The survey has been created in partnership with groups of young people in Norfolk, including the DRAGONS (Disability Real Action Group of Norfolk) and Youth Advisory Boards.
- The results of the survey will be used by a wide range of organisations to help develop ways to engage children and young people and gather their views on a wide range of topics over the coming years.

- The survey can be completed in around 10 minutes. Resources including guidance and a slide deck have been created to help adults support young people to complete the survey. An easy read version is also available for younger children and those with additional needs.

Further information and a link to survey [here](#)

Introduction to Exploitation - Training Module

Over 5000 people have undertaken a new training module designed to help everyone in Norfolk improve their understanding of the risks and challenges of exploitation.

Following its successful launch for professionals and volunteers, the training module is now being made available to members of the public who are keen to develop their understanding of this challenge in society.

The training, developed by the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership, Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board and the Norfolk County Community Safety Partnership has been designed to create a joint understanding of exploitation, helping professionals from police, social services, schools, the voluntary sector and the NHS to work in partnership to protect children and young people and adults at risk in our local community.

The course can be found and completed online [here](#).

If you are worried that a child, young person, or adult is at harm of exploitation or abuse you should report your concerns by calling 0344 800 8020. In an emergency call 999.

Winter Travel advice and information

Norfolk County Council has launched their annual travel information and safety campaign, #NorfolkWinter on social media, with information and advice to keep people moving around safely this winter however they choose to travel.

The county council's highway team will also be keeping a close eye on detailed specialist forecasts and weather sensors across the county that help inform when and where gritting will be taking place in Norfolk throughout the winter.

Updates will be posted to the county council's social media channels to let people know when gritting will be taking place. As well as tips and advice for travelling safely through the winter. Look for the #NorfolkWinter hashtag on Twitter and Facebook.

Further travel information and advice to keep safe in Winter [here](#)

Appeal from the Norfolk Coroner's Service for help tracing next-of-kin

Perhaps someone can help? The Norfolk Coroner's Service are appealing for help to trace the family of a man who has died in Norwich.

- Dennis John Franklin, aged 74, died at his home address in Watling Road on Friday 7th October 2022. There were no suspicious circumstances.
- It is believed Dennis had a sister called Jennifer living in Rushden Northamptonshire, however despite carrying out enquiries, officers have been unable to trace her.

Anyone with information relating to Dennis should contact the Coroner's Officer in Norwich on 01603 774773.

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