



Latest update on events from your County Councillor Tom FitzPatrick

Hempton Parish Council

12th October 2022

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. This is updated regularly so please do re-visit this page.

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

Independent Living

As part of our prevention work, Norfolk County Council are investing £29m in new Independent Living schemes. These properties are designed for people over the age of 55 whose current home no longer best meets their needs. Independent Living schemes are usually made up of apartments that are owned or rented (privately or socially) by individuals who require a level of care. They are distinguished from sheltered housing by always having care and support staff on site 24/7 and include a wide range of communal facilities such as shops and hairdressers.

- We've just launched a new campaign to raise awareness of this type of housing.

This educational campaign includes adverts and aims to give information about affordable housing options with care for older people. It is targeted at people aged 45+ and those aged 60+, educating two generations at once - both older people and their children. The idea being that we educate both those who may be considering that a change in their home environment could be beneficial, and their children or relatives, so when conversations about making a change comes up, people have the right information and know where to find out more. We hope this will support more people to live independently and make a move to a suitable new home before they reach the stage where they need residential care. We have some very informative [Independent living and Housing with Care video guides](#) on our website.

Avian Flu - Norfolk County Council - Trading Standards

Norfolk has several outbreaks of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N1, which has led to thousands of fowl being culled. It is affecting wild and domestic bird populations.

- The virus is highly contagious among birds, and spread by close contact with an infected bird, whether it is dead or alive.
- Last week a [Regional Avian Influenza Prevention Zone](#) was applied to everyone who keeps poultry or captive birds in **Norfolk, Suffolk and parts of Essex**.

Trading Standards' involvement is predominantly through assisting their partners the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA).

- Once the disease has been confirmed at an infected premises, two zones are created surrounding the premises – a 10km Surveillance Zone and a 3km Protection Zone. Each zone creates legal requirements and imposes restrictions upon birdkeepers within those areas.
- Once the zones are declared they carry out foot patrols in the highest priority area (the 3km zone surrounding the infected site. This is to identify backyard flocks and any other unknown captive birds in the area to establish their location and promote the legal requirements and biosecurity.
- When called upon they will also use their enforcement powers to ensure that APHA vets can undertake the essential veterinary surveillance work at birdkeeper's premises.

Within these two zones it is Trading Standards' responsibility to ensure the requirements are complied with. It is also their responsibility to ensure the requirements of any Regional or National Prevention zones (such as the one currently in place in East Anglia) are complied with.

Avian flu latest situation and advice

The [Regional Avian Influenza Prevention Zone](#) applies to everyone who keeps poultry or captive birds in Norfolk, Suffolk and parts of Essex.

Bird keepers across the country must follow biosecurity measures including:

- Ensure the areas where birds are kept are unattractive to wild birds, for example by netting ponds, and by removing wild bird food sources.
- Feed and water your birds in enclosed areas to discourage wild birds
- Minimise movement in and out of bird enclosures
- Clean and disinfect footwear and keep areas where birds live clean and tidy
- Reduce any existing contamination by cleansing and disinfecting concrete areas and fencing off wet or boggy areas.
- Keep a close watch on birds for any signs of disease and report any sick birds or unexplained deaths
- Have effective vermin control in place

Information regarding the latest situation on Avian Influenza, including full details of the Prevention Zone requirements, can be found at - [Avian influenza \(bird flu\): GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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

If you have more than 50 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 - [Poultry \(including game birds\): registration rules and forms - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Further Government advice on Avian Flu, including guidance relating to wild birds, is at [Avian influenza \(bird flu\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System

Norfolk and Waveney's health and care system under extreme pressure

With health and care services in Norfolk and Waveney extremely busy caring for some very sick patients, people are being urged to use services wisely and to look after themselves.

- Whilst it is important that people do not delay seeking help from the NHS if they are not well, people are being urged to attend an Emergency Department only if absolutely necessary
- There is very high demand for all health and care services at the moment and it is vital they keep as many beds as possible in acute hospitals free for people needing urgent and emergency treatment, community hospitals free to provide continuing care, and ambulances on the road able to respond to emergency calls.

Household Support Fund – support for Norfolk communities

Norfolk County Council has released details of the multi-million-pound support package that is available to communities through a wide range of initiatives. This is being boosted by the latest round of the Household Support Fund from the government, which is worth £6.7m, and is being bolstered by the county council with a further £1.2m, adding to the already significant investments planned for Norfolk communities.

Norfolk County Council has once more decided to distribute the UK Government's Household Support Fund to a range of organisations and support services who are best placed to give support to those who need it most

- For example, the county council is providing Norfolk Community Foundation with £220,000 to provide grants of up to £2,000 towards the cost of running or establishing a Community Hot-Spot that gives a warm welcome to the whole community, in particular reaching those who are vulnerable or have been impacted by the cost-of-living crisis.

The funding will enable the continuation of the excellent partnership work that has happened across the county to date, including creation of 15 food hubs through a pioneering collaboration with the Community Foundation.

- This has supported 12,000 people already, with other parts of the country seeking to learn from this best practice.

To date the cost-of-living support through the multi-million-pound package has helped over 128,000 households with £14.3m of funding.

- People can see which support they are eligible for and apply for help online through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS).

Further details of the funding and investment in communities and a link to the NAS and how to apply for individual support can be found on the County Council website.

Postwick Park and Ride to open for festive season

Norfolk County Council will open Postwick Park and Ride from Monday 21 November until Christmas, giving residents another travel option for getting to Norwich during the busy festive season.

- Buses will run every 20 minutes starting from 8.30am Monday to Saturday with the last bus back from the bus station at 18.10.
- People will be able to benefit from the great value tickets available across all Park and Ride services including the group saver ticket at just £5.50 for up to five people.

Jubilee Trees for Norfolk - update

Norfolk residents are being invited to plant a tree in memoriam to honour Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

Jubilee Trees for Norfolk was launched earlier this year to encourage people to “Plant a tree for the Jubilee” supporting the Queen’s Green Canopy.

- Norfolk County Council is now relaunching the scheme and hopes that tree planting across Norfolk can offer a long lasting tribute to a monarch so special to our county and create a legacy to honour her dedicated service of more than 70 years.
- The County Council has made half-price tree packs available at seven tree collection points including Norwich (County Hall and Broadland Country Park), Acle, Long Stratton, Watton, Fakenham and King’s Lynn. Residents should apply online for the Jubilee Trees for Norfolk scheme, and the packs will be ready for collection in the planting season between December 2022 and February 2023.

The Jubilee Trees for Norfolk scheme is being funded by Norfolk County Council and the Government through the Trees Outside Woodland project.

- It is part of the 1 Million Trees for Norfolk project, an ambitious initiative to work in partnership with communities, landowners, other agencies, businesses and individuals across the county to enable one million trees to be planted over five years.
- In the 2021/22 planting season, the 1 Million Trees team enabled nearly 45,000 trees to be planted through a range of innovative projects.

More about the Million Trees for Norfolk and how to apply can be found on the County Council website

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS)

NFRS to mark National Burns Awareness Day

On Wednesday 12 October, NFRS will be joining organisations across the UK in marking National Burns Awareness Day.

- Every year, National Burn Awareness Day aims to improve public awareness of both burn prevention and burns first aid. Burns can be a major injury and can result in lifelong scars and the need for ongoing medical care.
- Many burn injuries are preventable – and education and awareness in the community really can make a difference.
- That is why the service is marking the day by sharing burn prevention guidance and safety information on their social media channels throughout the day.
- As a fire and rescue service, staff know the risk fires, hot surfaces, hot drinks and boiling water, and household items such as hair straighteners pose and the service pride themselves on prevention through education.
- NFRS would be pleased if you could consider sharing their social media burn safety messages on your own social media accounts.

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