



# Latest update on events from your County Councillor Tom FitzPatrick

Puttling Norton & Testerton Parish Council

20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) and [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://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](#)

## Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System Get protected and get vaccinated this winter

NHS Norfolk and Waveney's campaign is off to a great start as thousands have come forward for their Autumn booster jab. More than 100,000 autumn COVID-19 vaccination boosters have been administered to people across Norfolk and Waveney.

- The NHS will contact people when it is their turn to book in for the vaccine – you do not need to contact the NHS. They urge all those invited for both a flu and COVID-19 booster vaccine to take up the offer as quickly as possible – it will give you maximum protection this winter.

## Avian Flu

### Advice for bird keepers in Norfolk amid avian influenza (Bird Flu) outbreaks

There have been several outbreaks of the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus in Norfolk. Mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds in Norfolk, Suffolk and parts of Essex have been introduced from 12 October 2022, following a decision by the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer.

The housing order legally requires all bird keepers in these hotspots to keep their birds indoors and to follow stringent biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the disease, regardless of type or size.

Norfolk Trading Standards will be working with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to support businesses and minimise the risk of disease spreading further.

The UK Health Security Agency has said 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 has said 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 measures that APHA require people keeping birds to take to reduce the risk of spreading the disease are:

- Housing all poultry and captive birds (including birds kept as pets)
- Cleanse and disinfect clothing, footwear, equipment, and vehicles before and after contact with poultry and captive birds – if practical, use disposable protective clothing
- Reduce the movement of people, vehicles, or equipment to and from areas where poultry and captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from litter, manure, slurry, and other products, and use effective vermin control
- Keep records of all deaths, movement of poultry and poultry products and any changes in production
- Thoroughly cleanse and disinfect housing on a regular basis
- Keep fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points. Foot dips should be covered to stop disinfectant getting diluted
- Minimise direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
- Prevent access by poultry to ponds and watercourses and ensure that birds are kept in fenced or enclosed areas

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.

## **National Adoption Week**

In National Adoption Week (17-23 October) Norfolk County Council's Adoption Service is calling for more people to consider adoption.

People from all sorts of different backgrounds, occupations and walks of life can make good adopters. The service does not discriminate on the grounds of gender, sexuality or disability and need adopters for children of all ages. They are particularly looking for adopters for brothers and sisters, toddlers and young children aged four and older, and for children with disabilities.

Find out more about adopting a child through Norfolk County Council's Adoption Service online or call 01603 638343.

## Norfolk Libraries celebrate Get Online Week

Throughout this week (17-21 October) Norfolk Libraries are encouraging people to see how they can improve their lives through connectivity.

Get Online Week is celebrated nationally every October, and this year Norfolk County Council are promoting #JustOneThing, focussing on helping people sign up for services offered by the NHS, such as online GP services, and the NHS app.

People will be able to get support from staff in all 47 of Norfolk's libraries to register for a variety of online services. This support is offered all year round, alongside a whole host of other services which are designed to promote Digital Inclusion.

Norfolk Libraries are also part of the National Databank which provides adults who are in need with 6-months of free data via a SIM card. So far over 35,000GB of data has been provided, including over 3,500GB given out via the Ukraine Welcome sessions.

Find out how to sign up for these sessions on the NCC website.

## Norfolk Women's Health Case Study

Although women live longer than men on average, women spend a greater proportion of their lives in ill-health and disability than men. To address this the government has published its first [Women's Health Strategy](#) setting out a six-point plan. Norfolk Public Health has contributed [a case study](#) to a [Local Government Association collection of studies](#) showing how local authorities have been rising to the challenge.

[The study aimed at tackling obesity among pregnant women and new mothers](#) was carried out by Advanced Public Health Officer Dr Sara Karrar, and showed how Norfolk County Council, working with social enterprise company C3 Collaborating for Health, empowered residents in Kings Lynn to investigate their health and the environment in which they live. Residents walked their neighbourhoods and using a mobile survey tool identified and mapped assets and barriers to making healthy choices with respect to two major health risk factors: diet and physical activity.

Work is now ongoing with the local community to act on what was found and the area locality officer is working with the community to draw up an action plan to tackle some of the more entrenched issues. Once the work is completed, Public Health will look at what lessons can be learnt and how they could be applied to other areas.

## 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 was joined by 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.

## **Tom FitzPatrick**

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