

Information from County Councillor Dr Marie Strong
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Cockthorpe Mobile 'Telephone Mast: Whilst I gather that Vodafone and 02 have continued to transmit from the Cockthorpe mast there have been ongoing problems regarding EE and Three. I have been in contact with the Corporate Affairs Manager for Ericsson UK Ltd and he assures me that a solution to the problem is in the offing and that I will be kept informed – **I received an email this evening to say all in order.**

North Norfolk Food and Drink Festival: Congratulations to all those providers and suppliers of excellent produce particularly the considerable number of stall holders from our local parishes. The beautiful location of Holkham's walled garden did justice to the displays of food and beverage and we came away with a trolley full of provisions.

Recycling Centre - hazardous waste amnesty 9am and 5pm on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September: Residents can get rid of unwanted toxic chemicals at seven of NCC's recycling centres. Wood preservatives, bug and weed killers, paint, thinners, varnishes and special cleaning products are among the wide range of household chemicals which will be accepted for free. These are products too dangerous to be tipped down drains and cannot be put in regular waste bins because they can damage the environment and need to be dealt with using specialist disposal processes. Sites include Hempton, Helhoughton Rd, Fakenham, NR21 7DY.

Composting: Not such a 'time-sensitive' item as the amnesty week-end. Since more and more people are taking gardening seriously and there is an increase in renting allotments I thought to include a link to the NCC latest Master Composter newsletter [Norfolk Master Composter newsletter July - September 2016](#).

Adults at Risk of Abuse: On a serious note the number of adults being abused does not abate so I am repeating the following advice: If someone you know is being abused call NCC Adult Social Services on 0344 800 8020 (24 hours a day); text 07767 647670; email SCCE@norfolk.gov.uk; online.norfolk.gov.uk/socialcareenquiry. Leaflets are available in the library. (You can also use these contacts if you are worried about a child). For more information see www.norfolk.gov.uk/speakup. In an emergency call the police on 999.

Devolution for Norfolk and Suffolk: Unfortunately I have to confirm press coverage that the devolution process continues to become more and more confusing – including a statement that North Norfolk residents will not be given a vote in respect of a mayor. The briefest and simplest statement I can make is that Norfolk County Councillors across the political spectrum have given strong if cautious support to devolving powers and finance down from government but have no enthusiasm for setting up an additional tier of local government with a mayor. It is of concern that whilst the consultation on devolution polled just under 11,000 participants from Suffolk and Norfolk there are almost one million residents in Norfolk. However I am confident that when NCC has its final debate on devolution councillors will give serious consideration to the outcome of the consultation together with views expressed at town and parish council meetings and by individuals across our urban and rural divisions. Councillors, elected to represent the people of Norfolk, will demonstrate due diligence before casting a vote on a mayoral combined authority for Norfolk and Suffolk.

Hi-tech Access to Library Services: Just to impress 'techie' readers I offer the latest tool service from NCC's library service which has launched Spydus Mobile, a free app that residents can download onto their smartphone or tablet to access library services and manage their membership at any time 'on the move'. The app allows users to search for books, place holds on interesting items, download e-books and e-audio books, keep track of their library account and manage their loans. Even those who are not library members can use Spydus Mobile to scan barcodes on books, CDs, DVDs and other items, using their device's camera while they are out and about, and search for available copies at their local library. To download Spydus Mobile for Apple and Android devices visit the App Store or Google Play and select Norfolk Library and Information Service.

Concessionary Bus Passes:

I know in the changeover from my mobile 'phone and email equipment I have lost one email but I recall one of the questions – asked by many. The answer is that the Government will not allow the county to take any money in relation to a concessionary bus pass. (I hope the reader will re-send his email with the second question.)

All good wishes

Marie Strong