

News from County Councillor Dr Marie Strong  
Wells Division (Glaven, Priory and Walsingham Wards)  
[marie.strong@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:marie.strong@norfolk.gov.uk) or 07920 286 597

Dear Councillors

Life is beginning to get back to normal at county hall and the round of meetings has finally commenced. I have already attended several meetings including EDT Committee (Environment, Development and Transport) and Policy and Resources. Both important committees and they are never boring – indeed you will no doubt read in the press items we have debated and below I have provided information regarding our projected savings. (Please remember members of the public are always welcome at these meetings - check NCC website for details).

**Norfolk County Council's projected savings:** A report to the council's Policy and Resources Committee on July 3<sup>rd</sup> predicted NCC will have to save a further £100 million from 2018/19-2021/22, on top of savings of £24.9 million already agreed for 2018/19 and 2019/20. It is proposed that the committee will ask services to find the following savings over four years:

Adult social care: £31.0 million; Children's services (non-schools): £23.5 million; Community and environmental services: £31.2 million; Managing director's department: £1.3 million; Finance and commercial services: £3.6m;

Finance general (which includes pension and grant payments): £9.4 million. These Proposals are being developed on the basis of Government indications that the revenue support grant will end after 2019/20, so that the council will then have to rely on Council Tax, business rates and specific grants. Reports are available at:

<http://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1359/Committee/21/Default.aspx>.

It was noted at the meeting that the council will continue to press the government to release more financial assistance particularly for adult social care. This call to government is supported by all political groups at county.

**Grants for Rural Business:** Following on from the news of such drastic cuts I am hoping that someone with a rural business will study the following scheme and make a successful application: <http://www.edp24.co.uk/business/farming/leader-scheme-still-has-6m-available-for-rural-businesses-says-norfolk-county-council-1-5080585>

**Reporting Highways Problems:** Rather than waiting to report problems to your local council you can now contact highways directly: Go on line to <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/>. A Highways Problem report form will 'ask' if you have a question about road maintenance, Public Rights of Way or Norfolk trails. Report a problem and If you want to be kept updated register your contact details. You can report issues anonymously but will not be able to track progress. (For anyone without a computer, lap top or i-Pad the very helpful staff at any of our libraries will show how you can report highways problems on a library computer).

**Household hazardous waste days:** Hempton Recycling Centre will be accepting waste normally barred from centres 900am-5.00pm on Saturday 30 September 2017 and Sunday 1 October. Details of what will and will not be accepted can be found on [www.norfolk.gov.uk/hazardouswaste](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/hazardouswaste) along with details of other centres.

**Libraries are offering reading support for long term health conditions:** A library health and wellbeing reading scheme has been extended to include other medical conditions. The new book list has been developed for people with long term health conditions, their relatives and carers. The list will be available at all 47 Norfolk libraries and 8 mobile libraries and includes health information, memoir and self-management titles, covering conditions such as diabetes, stroke and heart disease, as well as common symptoms such as fatigue, pain, wellbeing and sleep problems. The books are free to reserve. (I hope you all read the commitment of NCC's leader that libraries will not be closed.)

**Fire Protection:** My colleagues in NCC's Trading Standards are urging us all to register electrical appliances so we will be notified by manufacturers of any product recalls. (There is a national website which gives details of all product recalls - to check if any of your appliances are affected, visit [www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk](http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk) and click on the Product Recalls tab). I am not the only person to know from experience the value of smoke alarms and would join Trading Standards in asking you to fit smoke alarms and regularly test them. And please note that any member of the public can call Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service on 0800 917 8137 to arrange for a free Home Fire Risk Check.

**Sharrington Village Hall:** I would like to congratulate the committee and supporters of Sharrington Hall who, with a little money and a lot of work, have improved the hall beyond recognition. We recently enjoyed a great night in a friendly welcoming atmosphere with a foot-tapping mix of folk and rock music-performed by professionals and local talent. Similar events take place the last Wednesday every month check [www.sharrington.org.uk](http://www.sharrington.org.uk).

**Norfolk County Council's 'Write on Norfolk' competition:** For the second year we are encouraging children and young people to show their creative skills, have fun with their writing and really let their imaginations run wild. This is a great way of boosting literacy skills, particularly over the long summer holidays when we know some children's learning dips. The competition is open to those aged between five and 13 years old. Budding writers are asked to submit a piece of original creative writing from **5 June to 31 August**; a maximum of 500 words (roughly one side of A4 paper) and it must contain a link to Norfolk. It can be a short story, poem, script or even song lyrics. The competition is split into three age categories, 5-7, 8-10 and 11-13. Gold, silver and bronze winners will be chosen in each category and winners will be announced at a special ceremony in early October. In addition to prizes of Amazon Fire tablets and book tokens the winning entries will be publicised online and in the local media. Jan Holden, NCC's Head of Libraries said: "... good readers make great writers .... our libraries will be great places for budding writers to get inspiration for their Write On Norfolk entries this summer - not least if they are also taking part in our annual Summer Reading Challenge." Full details about the competition can be found on: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/writeon](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/writeon).

All good wishes for an enjoyable summer in our beautiful division of Norfolk

Marie

County Cllr Dr Marie Strong  
Wells Division