

News from County Councillor Dr Marie Strong
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Dear All

Norfolk's Budget Consultation: You will probably have heard about the vast amount of money the county council is aiming to save and now we all have an opportunity to have our say. Google Norfolk County Council and the Budget Consultation is on the first page. (If you are without a computer local library staff will assist.) Please respond because it does make a difference. Norfolk County responsibilities include Adult Social Services, Children's Services, Buses, Highways, Libraries, Recycling Centres, Broadband.

Mobile Phone Connectivity: The Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee of which I am a member has agreed to commission a survey of mobile phone and data coverage across the county. I was concerned that the main focus was on Norwich, Kings Lynn and Yarmouth together with A and B roads. Since our division's largest town is Wells and most of our divisional roads are U (unclassified) this did not meet with my approval. However, it has been agreed councillors can make recommendations – which as you can imagine I have done! I must wax a little cautious because whilst it is hoped the survey will encourage the mobile phone operators to make greater provision across Norfolk we do not have the same financial control as we have had with Better Broadband for Norfolk.

Hate Incident Reporting: Over recent months Norfolk County Council has been working with Norfolk Constabulary to refresh Norfolk's Multi-Agency Protocol on Hate Incident reporting. The revised Protocol clarifies how public, private and voluntary agencies can work together to report and tackle hate incidents and protect people in Norfolk. It aims to set a consistent standard for hate incident reporting in Norfolk. Find out more by visiting www.norfolk.police.uk/stop-hate

Norfolk Constabulary 2020 Police Structure Reviews: Many will have heard of the review but to read it in full google 'Norfolk Chief Constable New Vision for Future Policing'. I took the opportunity presented to meet with the Chief Constable who allowed time for a good many questions. It was obvious that the reason for the content lies in cuts and increased costs and that it will take time to evaluate the outcome including the aspects which the Chief Constable hopes and believes will be beneficial.

New Police Inspector: In seeking to relate the review to the Wells Division of rural parishes I met with Inspector Ed Brown, who has been appointed with responsibility for Holt, Fakenham and Wells stations. Inspector Brown took time to discuss how the new plan will unfold and I believe he will listen to residents' concerns and views as the plan begins to take effect. Change is always difficult and I hope our police officers will be confident of our support and that the future will give them the best of opportunities to support us. (Without diminishing the importance of the Review I took the opportunity, as I have previously promised, to appraise the new inspector as to police responsibility for obstruction on pavements.)

Marie

County Cllr Dr Marie Strong
Wells Division

Barshams & Houghton St Giles, Binham with Cockthorpe, Blakeney, Brinton with Sharrington, Field Dalling & Saxlingham, Glandford with Letheringsett, Great Snoring, Great & Little Walsingham, Hindringham, Holkham, Langham, Morston, Sculthorpe, Stiffkey, Stody with Hunworth, Thornage & Little Thornage, Warham, Wells-next-the-Sea, Wighton, Wiveton