

Local Buses including the Coasthopper: Another concern drawn to my attention is the missing link between trains at King's Lynn and buses to Fakenham – and villages onwards. I have obtained the following information:

The service between King's Lynn - Fakenham and onwards was previously run by Stagecoach on an hourly basis. As readers know Stagecoach withdraw their services from Norfolk in April. Fortunately Lynx Bus took over this service along with other routes but for this route could only do so on a 2-hourly basis. Whilst NCC will continue to work as closely as possible with Sanders and other operators NCC cannot see the public transport subsidy budget increasing anytime soon. NCC Passenger Transport staff are very aware that the connections with the trains do not work that well and this has not been helped by the recent train timetable changes, but the bus from King's Lynn also has to connect at Fakenham with buses that go on to Wells, Norwich, Holt and further afield. NCC cannot change the times of the buses but all services will be reviewed regularly.

SCAMS: NCC has agreed the objectives for the Norfolk Against Scams Partnership (NASP) - a group of organisations committed to taking a stand against scams. Fraud costs the UK economy £52 billion a year and even more worrying it is believed that only 5% of victims report the crime. If you think you or a relative, friend or neighbour have been the victim of a scam or fraud or you are concerned about a possible scam or fraud, please report it to Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 04 05 06 or Fraud on 0300 123 2040. For more information about scams visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/trading-standards/scams.

Blue Badge Scheme: All information regarding the Blue Badge scheme can be found on NCC website. Please assist any friends who may need help either applying for a badge or renewing it. Also read the information on 'inaccurate' use of the badge and help avoid embarrassment.

Norfolk businesses offered a £3,000 boost for ultrafast broadband: An opportunity for Norfolk businesses to claim up to a £3,000 towards installing a superfast broadband connection - through a £67 million Government voucher scheme. The Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme was launched in March as part of a programme to deliver full fibre coverage across the UK. The offer is for small to medium-sized businesses and the local communities surrounding them. A one-off contribution towards the installation cost of a full fibre connection capable of delivering gigabit (1,000 megabits) speeds. The scheme will run until March 2021 or until all available funding has been allocated. Business owners can check their eligibility and find out how to register with a supplier in their area, at <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>.

Recycling Centres: Publicity continues as to fly tipping and what can and cannot be taken to our recycling centres without charge and it is easy to get confused. I thought therefore to repeat accurate information and a link. *All household items are accepted for free – things such as fridges, sofas, electrical items, furniture, recyclables and garden waste etc – more information is on this link if that is useful: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-planning/rubbish-and-recycling/types-of-waste-we-accept>.* I also have a personal plea for calling the recycling centres just that – Recycling Centres – not dump or tip. The plea is not just because that is what the centres are (this last month my local centre reported that 86% of what had been taken there had been recycled) but because amongst the hard working and dedicated staff there are fathers and mothers whose children should be proud that their parents do this work – and do not work at a dump!

Parish Partnership Scheme with Norfolk County Council: Joanna is very familiar with this scheme but for councillors - due to the success of working in partnership with Parish/Town Councils for the last seven years the Parish Partnership Scheme Initiative will again be repeated in the financial year 2019/20. In my division there have been several successful projects where the town or parish council has organised the bid but others have provided the funding. (I had one such bid where three organisations shared the cost.) Further information, including possible funding sources for your share of the bid, is available on our website.

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