

News from County Councillor Dr Marie Strong Wells Division (Glaven, Priory and Walsingham Wards) marie.strong@norfolk.gov.uk or [07920 286 597](tel:07920286597)

Budget consultation 2019/20: I am sure you will realise that the outcome of this consultation will affect all of us. As in previous years NCC will be consulting Norfolk residents and stakeholders on specific budget savings proposals as part of the council's budget setting process. On 29 October the Council's Policy and Resources Committee met and reviewed the strategic and financial planning for 2019/20 and agreed a set of proposals for public consultation. The consultation will run from 5 November through to 23 December 2018. The consultation will be on the following proposals:

Making changes to our Adult Social Care charging policy;
Service changes and a reduction in searchroom opening hours at Norfolk Record Office;
Increasing Council Tax by 2.99%

How can local people find out about the consultation and have their say? We will publicise the consultation using social media, such as Facebook and Twitter and in the local media.

The Autumn issue of Your Norfolk magazine, distributed to all households in Norfolk, includes information on the budget and how people can feed back their views.

People will be able to read the proposals online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget and feed back their views using the online consultation.

Using our online feedback form ensures we have a clear record of people's response and that their views are accurately recorded. We will provide copies online of PDF documents so that people can download these themselves if they want a hard copy. We appreciate that some residents may not have online access and people who are unable to respond online can send us their views in writing to: Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH. Residents can request individual consultation documents in other formats, including paper form, by calling [0844 800 8020](tel:08448008020) or emailing HaveYourSay@norfolk.gov.uk – this will include large print, easy-read for people with learning disabilities, Braille, audio etc.

How will partners and local organisations be able to get involved? We are writing to key statutory and other partners, including town and parish councils to inform them of the proposals we will be consulting on. Where there are specific proposals that affect service users or other groups we will take extra steps to engage them in the consultation. The methods we use will be tailored to the needs of the people that need to be consulted. *Please have your say with this important consultation which will affect so many lives.*

Consultation on Norfolk's Children's Centres: This consultation has closed but watch local press as many questions are being asked – including I an article by the editor of the EDP. 'Transforming our Children's Centres' proposes we retain just 7 of the current 53 centres as early childhood and family service bases. Whilst I am not afraid of change I cannot get out of my mind a comment made by a primary school head – 'if it were not for the Children's Centre there are children in this school who would not survive primary school.'

UK Power Networks: Offers advice for anyone experiencing a power cut. Call [105](tel:105) to report power cuts and damage to the electricity network, or [0800 3163 105](tel:08003163105) (from a corded phone or mobile phone if you have no power)

Visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk for the latest updates

Visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut and type in their postcode to view the live power cut map

Tweet [@ukpowernetworks](https://twitter.com/ukpowernetworks) to report a power cuts or to receive updates

Extra help is provided to customers on the Priority Service Register. Households with older or disabled people, those with children under five, or where someone uses medical or mobility

equipment that requires electricity as well as other reasons can join the register. You can find out more on: ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority.

Thousands more homes and businesses to access Superfast Broadband - thanks to Norfolk County Council securing an extra £11 million funding. BBfN rollout started in July 2013 when 42% of Norfolk properties had access to Superfast broadband. Currently 92% of homes and businesses have access to download speeds of 24Mbps+ per second. The Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) programme is set to deliver 95% coverage across the county by the end of March 2020 but we are not content to stop until every home and business in Norfolk has access to Superfast Broadband. Not surprisingly some of the remaining not-spots are the most time-consuming and costly to reach and the £11m will go a long way to covering these gaps. . The new contract is expected to be signed early next year. To find out if superfast broadband is available in your area, visit www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk

New Reuse Shop Planned at Wells Recycling Centre:

Another step nearer! A planning application for Wells Recycling Centre has been submitted including plans for a reuse shop to be open to the public. This will be the tenth reuse shop in Norfolk. Good quality second hand goods are brought to the recycling centres and sold at car boot prices. Helping to give things a new home reduces the amount of unwanted items going to waste and the income from sales in the shops helps to offset the cost of providing the recycling centre service. A proportion of the income is donated to a charity partner (currently the East Anglian Air Ambulance). The new shop at Wells would be similar to Ashill reuse shop which has been selling a wide range of second hand goods from garden tools, furniture, books and items for spares and repairs such as bikes and lawnmowers.

All for now

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