

**News from County Councillor Dr Marie Strong County
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Coronavirus, - COVID-19:

The latest information and advice from the Department of Health and Public Health England (PHE) can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>. This includes the current situation in the UK and advice about the virus and its symptoms. (NCC also suggests [Public Health England advice](#) for information.)

Update on the Independent Local Government Commission Review of Norfolk County Council Divisions:

This is my eleventh year as county councillor and I have never known such confusion over an important issue. Whilst I have managed to check that local councils have received updates obviously I could not circulate the repeat changes of date and procedure to all residents. The following details, hopefully, will not be further amended:

‘The Commission has asked Norfolk County Council to provide updated electorate forecasts by 11 February and will extend the existing consultation period by six weeks to 24 March. Any party that has already made a submission based on the existing electorate figures is invited to make another submission once the updated electorate have been published. When they have been received, the new electorate forecasts will be published on the Norfolk review site at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/norfolk/norfolk-county-council>. As a result of this, the public consultation on the draft recommendations will now take place from 2 June - 10 August 2020. Whilst some parish councils have submitted a proposal I feel it is very important for everyone to at least check on the proposals during the final consultation period.

Norfolk Coast Path: A 1.7mi (2.8km) stretch of the Norfolk Coastal Path between Holkham and Wells has been given a makeover which has opened up a new 6.75mi (10.9km) circular walk. I feel it is a privilege to live in such a beautiful part of this county and projects such as this one allows more people to enjoy our wonderful North Norfolk coast which is why I was especially pleased to meet two wheel chair members of Active Trails, which assessing routes for accessibility, whilst there is still more work to be carried out listen to their comments including their ‘thumbs up’.

Norfolk County Council Budget 2020: Details can be found in the following press release: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2020/02/council-budget-agreed> and to learn about the debate which took place access NCC website for the minutes of the meeting.

Speeding:

Reporting Highways Concerns: Rather than wait for a Parish Council meeting you can speed up repairs by reporting issues direct to highways@norfolk.gov.uk or telephone 0344 800 8020.

Deter Speeding:

To deter speeding several parishes now have ‘Village Gates’ – letting drivers know they are approaching housing and pedestrians. Instead of gates or as well as other parishes have

opted for Sam2's with flashing lights indicating speed. Gates: Cost will be dependent on width of verge, height and style of gate with costs likely to be between £500 and £1000 per individual gate, fully installed. Purchase only price of gates can be found on the 'Glasdon' website. SAM2: Cost will be dependent on requirements but likely to be in the region of £4K. Both Gates and SAM2 are acceptable for application to the NCC Parish Partnership - 50% paid by town/parish 50% by NCC. Details of the Partnership is likely to be sent to local council this Spring for applications by December. Outcome will be known by March/April 2021 in time for installation in the following 12 months.

Speed Watch: Congratulations to the Sculthorpe Group excellent example to other parishes. Whilst some parishes have tried Speed Watch and been disappointed other parishes continue and are satisfied with the outcome. Raise the possibilities at parish council meetings with your local police officer.

Broadband Checker:

Having received enquiries from residents in parishes which have fibre broadband asking when it will arrive I thought other residents might find the following useful:

More residents now have the ability to access fibre broadband but are not up-to-date with how to check what is available to them. Therefore I have copied below a checker which for the vast majority of properties will provide an accurate result. However, occasionally there are properties where the data is inaccurate. If the checker shows availability contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) which in turn will contact Openreach. If Openreach identifies that the checker has given incorrect information the ISP will advise you accordingly. I am assured that on balance most properties will return the correct information so it is worth the effort.

<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/>. Having used this link press 'Use our fibre checker' button. Enter your postcode, tick the box to say you're not a robot and then click on the green search button to the right of the box where you entered the postcode. Pick your address from the list - it then either shows services as available or says whether something is planned. When services are available it has a 'View Providers' button which shows which Internet Service Providers are offering services at your address. If a positive response check with your ISP and find out what Openreach tells them. (Regret the checker is not infallible but best on offer at present.)

Upwards and onwards

Marie

Wells County Council Division (until the Boundary Commission task is complete) consists of: 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