

And again to say any questions ref broadband let me know.MS

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

Forgive me for repeating what you will have heard a thousand times but whilst it seems so obvious it is also what the experts believe is the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (and probably so many other bugs!)

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.

- Reduce the risk of catching and/or spreading viral infections. Wash our hands! It sounds obvious, but there are so many occasions where we put our hands to our mouth giving viruses an easy way in. Regular handwashing can reduce that risk significantly, and it only takes 20 seconds to wash them properly.
- Avoid touching your hands to your face as much as possible, especially to your eyes, mouth or nose.
- Catch it, Bin it, Kill it ... Germs can live on some surfaces for hours. To protect yourself and others, always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Bin the tissue, and to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.

Resources for schools and communities are available at: www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirustoolkit The toolkit contains social media assets and posters translated into 15 different languages and will be kept up to date to mirror the latest advice from Public Health England

Reminder regarding the Independent Local Government Commission Review of Norfolk County Council Divisions:

The LGC extended the initial consultation period by six weeks to 24 March. The draft recommendations will be published on the Norfolk review site at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/norfolk/norfolk-county-council>. The second public consultation on the draft recommendations will now take place from 2 June - 10 August 2020. 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 (an organisation which assesses routes for accessibility). Whilst there is still more work to be carried out I listened to positive comments and spotted 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.

Fines to Utilities Companies: Whilst the majority of planned works are completed on time NCC imposes charges where roadworks overrun and this income is reinvested into the highway service. During the three-year period NCC recorded 817 incidents where companies were penalised due to work extensions with fines ranging from £100 to £82,000 which is invested in highways work.. A comfort to those discommoded by extended disruption to travel! (In 2018/2019 year Energetic Electricity and Gas Ltd paid £344,625.)

Reporting Highways Concerns: A reminder of how to report highways problems (e.g. potholes) direct to highways@norfolk.gov.uk or telephone 0344 800 8020.

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