

Norfolk County Council Report for Warham Parish Council – 19 November 2020

News from County Councillor Dr Marie Strong
Wells Division
Marie.strong@norfolk.gov.uk 07920 286 597

Dear Councillors

Starting with a reminder of normal life recycling, fireworks, fostering and Cherry Tree Corner:

Recycling: Good news the recycling centres will be kept open during the 'lock down'.

Libraries: Unfortunately our libraries will be closed during the 'lock down'.

Fireworks – Bonfire Night will be well over when you read this report but various small celebrations may be under consideration particularly in the lead up to Christmas and the New Year. Whilst we all know to buy from reputable sellers Norfolk Fire Brigade would like us to check on firework and bonfire safety by going to: www.norfolk.gov.uk/fire.

Norfolk Fostering Service is Looking for Local Foster Carers for Local Children:

A stable and loving home can make an incredible difference to a child or young person, while also being an enlightening and rewarding experience for the foster carer. Carers are needed for children of all ages. The Council welcomes people from all sorts of backgrounds to care for our children and young people in different ways. They need someone who meets their particular needs and these differ greatly – so children and carers are matched very carefully. Some carers still work full or part-time while fostering mainly as respite carers. Some welcome the children and young people into their homes to live with them all the time, while for others it might just be a weekend a month; some are emergency carers we can call on if we need them. Foster carers are paid an allowance which is dependent on experience and training. *'We would like to hear from the optimistic, adventures and positive individuals who can offer a child meaningful support. Text FOSTERING 287222*

Cherry Tree Corner: A while back some eight local councils expressed interest in a roundabout to ease the Cherry Tree Corne congestion. I am sharing the information via the Chronicle since frequently surprised as to who uses that route. And I am not yet privy to the full details which will become clearer when the proposal goes to planning but here is an EDP extract:

'Funding secured for new A148 roundabout - paving way for 950 homes and school. North Norfolk District Council has secured £928,000 in matched funding to help finance the building of the £2m roundabout to support a new housing ...'

Clear face masks: Good news - NHS and care workers to be given clear face masks helping communication with people with conditions such as hearing loss, autism and dementia. The masks are see-through and have an anti-fogging barrier ensuring face and mouth always visible to aid communication. Social care providers will have access to the masks through a new pilot system.

Rough sleepers to be helped to keep safe this winter – The government has announced support to give local areas the tools and funding they need to protect people from life-threatening cold weather and the risks posed by coronavirus. Includes a £10 million Cold Weather Fund to support councils get rough sleepers off the streets during the winter and **an additional £2 million for faith and community groups to help them provide secure accommodation for rough sleepers.**

Apply for a kickstart scheme grant: I am told worth looking again at the Government's guidance for employers looking to create job placements for young people - [Kickstart Scheme](#) provides funding to

create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit at risk of long term unemployment. Employers can apply for funding as part of the Kickstart Scheme.

COVID-19 Information: Guidance and instructions change rapidly and are becoming more localised. Check for updates via the official and updated websites:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus

(this includes the effect on local services as well as the latest regulations for Norfolk and reference to many if not all of the government schemes)

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

(all the government schemes are to be found on this site)

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Please keep remembering those without a lap top etc. If you spot something which might be of value or interest to such a person consider asking if they would like a copy.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the many good works which continue to take place throughout our division – sometimes without a recipient knowing who performed the good deed.

Take Care

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

The following items were added on the night of the meeting:

Recycling: Good news that the recycling centres will be kept open during the current 'lock down'. (Hopefully if all goes well the same situation will pertain for any future lock downs.)

Libraries: Following guidance our libraries were closed during the 'lock down'. Good news is that people were – and are still able to use the online services. Customers can continue to [reserve items online](#) ready for whenever libraries are closed and ready to re-open; take part in online activities and borrow a range of [eBooks and eMagazines](#). No need to renew items since loans will be automatically renewed. No overdue charges for the period libraries are closed. Book-drop boxes remain available at all libraries for returns – but not cleared from accounts until staff return.

For regular information sign up for the library customer newsletter: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/libraries-newsletter>.

(Please keep remembering those without a lap top etc - if you spot something which might be of value or interest ask if they would like a copy e.g. library newsletter, fire brigade advice, Avian Influenza.)

Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) An [Avian Influenza Prevention Zone \(AIPZ\)](#) was declared in England (effective from 11 November 2020). Look out for more news when you read this edition of the Messenger. Here is the regulation whenever a zone is declared: All bird keepers whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock are required by law to take a range of biosecurity precautions. If you keep poultry or captive birds, you must take action to reduce the risk of

disease in your flock by following government advice on biosecurity. Further details of the measures that apply can be found in the [AIPZ declaration](#) and [biosecurity guidance](#). However the website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu> is an easy site to access for all the information people will need, including a poster and biosecurity advice – plus information about how people can voluntarily register their birds.

The poster is particularly for small flock keepers and pet bird owners. Defra is promoting the Prevention Zone on the web site which has some simple but effective biosecurity advice for keepers – and additional biosecurity requirements for keepers of larger flocks.

Keep up-to-date on the website, use the search 'avian influenza latest' and the main page should provide all information you should need.

Public Health England advises the threat to human health remains very low. Food Standards Agency (FSA) states that based on the current scientific evidence it poses a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Avian influenza is unconnected with coronavirus.