

## Norfolk County Council report – To Warham Parish Council - 21 February 2021

News from County Councillor Dr Marie Strong Wells Division

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Dear Councillors I hope to join your meeting and in the meantime here is my report:

Were we surprised being moved into Tier 4 let alone 5? I leave that question for you to ponder. For now I have copied below Norfolk's Director of Public Health rationale for the move to 4 and which pertains to 5. Also copied the usual websites which I am assured are updated regularly – this means that whatever changes come into play you can check out the latest and what is happening where your family and friends live.

As to why tier 4 (and 5??) Louise Smith, Director of Public Health in Norfolk said 'What is really clear, over the last six or seven days the numbers have really taken off and are now rising very quickly. "It may be the new variant and we think now just after half of the cases are the new variant but it's also worth remembering that all our predictions and scenarios did predict we were in for a tough winter and unfortunately this does look the direction in which we are heading. When we look at the data by district area we are seeing the numbers rise in every district.'

COVID-19 Information: Information on the national tiers is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know> [www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus); this site includes 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](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus); all the government schemes are to be found on this site [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus); separate site if required but linked with the government site.

Below I have also copied information as to what is available for people struggling to cope with lock down and other Covid related problems. The good news is that there is a range of assistance available and if appropriate please share the information AND PLEASE SHARE WITH AS MANY OF YOUR RESIDENTS AS POSSIBLE THE OPPORTUNITY DESCRIBED FOR FINDING OUT HOW TO GAIN HELP. Too many people in need of help are not accessing it.

New event to help parents in Norfolk to access support:

A free webinar is taking place next week for parents and carers in need of a helping hand during the pandemic Organised by Norfolk County Council and Cambridge Community Services NHS Trust, the event is taking place on 14 January and will advise families how to access advice and support on everything from health to finances.

The hour-long session will cover some of the many schemes available, including Early Help services, information from Just One Norfolk and what community support is available to help families through tricky times.

Norfolk County Council has many schemes that can make a difference. This webinar will give people the tools to ask for help should they need it.

Sian Larrington, Head of Service for Norfolk Children and Young People's Health Services stated: "We really encourage all families to sign up, there is a lot of support in the community and this 60 minute session will help families access that support, if they ever need it."

"I am delighted we have partnered with Norfolk County Council, pulling together as a Norfolk system will help us get the best outcomes for children, young people and families living in Norfolk."

The event is taking place on zoom and families can participate anonymously. If they're unable to attend, information about what support they can access has been sent to all Norfolk schools. Further sessions are being planned for the coming weeks, which will be informed by feedback from parents & carers.

Parents or carers can book a free place at [www.nccparentsinformationevent.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.nccparentsinformationevent.eventbrite.co.uk)

Support for Families: A reminder that Norfolk County Council has developed a package of support to help families over the winter months. For information and advice go to [www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus) or call 0344 800 8020. Please share this information and the following:

Free school meals: check if your children are eligible: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>.

Extension of Norfolk Assistance Scheme: provides support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items. Visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/NAS](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/NAS) or if no internet call 01603 223392 (option 5) (you can leave a message if the line is busy).

Power Cuts - Call 105 free of charge to report power cuts and damage to the electricity network, or 0800 3163 105 (from a corded landline phone or mobile phone). Also visit the following sites: [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk) for the latest updates (on a mobile phone), [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut) type in your postcode to view the live power cut map and Tweet @ukpowernetworks to report power cuts or to receive updates.

Roadworks: Up-to-date information about roadworks in Norfolk is available on the County Council website at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/roadworks](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roadworks)

Avian Influenza: Measures regarding Avian Influenza were enhanced at least twice over the past weeks so however few birds you have please check the latest update: [www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#latest-situation](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#latest-situation)

Good works: Whilst I have copied above various forms of official assistance yet again I would like to applaud the immense amount of valuable work being carried out by volunteers, neighbours and simply good people.

Warm wishes to you all.

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