

County Council Report September 2022– Judy Oliver

1. The **Norfolk Proclamation of the Accession** took place at County Hall on 11 September 2022. The Lord Lieutenant, Lady Dannatt MBE, paid tribute to The Late Queen, before the proclamation of The King was delivered by the High Sheriff, David McLeavy Hill.

2. **Sheringham recycling centre**

Following the consultation on the proposed new Sheringham recycling centre, NCC have reviewed the responses which will help to shape the final layout and will feed in to the statement of community involvement for planning. There were 233 responses to the consultation and, overall, feedback to the proposed new site was positive. There was some mixed feedback within the comments, particularly around the proposed road improvements and current speed limit on the layby (which reflects the in-person discussions at the public exhibition). Around 10% of the final free text comments related to DIY charging and around 10% commented that they didn't think the existing site needs replacing. As NCC expected, there were a few comments on the materials accepted, notably a wish to see paint accepted but others included batteries and oil (which are already accepted) and plastics.

NCC are now looking at making some improvements to the layout, which would address some comments in the consultation such as cycle parking, better bin layout to improve access to key bins, maximising the reuse shop and a landscaping scheme. NCC have also been discussing the proposals with key stakeholders, such as the flood authority, to ensure the plans are developing appropriately.

3. **Sheringham-Cromer Cycle Path Plan**

The Cromer to Sheringham proposal has been included in the feasibility study for the Norfolk Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan WIP (which has Cromer as a priority urban area).

NCC have completed their first round of engagement on this plan and are currently completing site audits with the next round of engagement due this autumn. Further information is available online at:

[Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans - Norfolk County Council](#)

4. **Natural England Landscape Recovery: North Norfolk AONB**

Natural England announced on 2 September that 22 successful bids had been chosen to deliver projects that restore nature, reduce flood risks and boost biodiversity. Three of the successful bids are for projects in Norfolk including the "Wilder, Wetter, Better for Wildlife" proposal in North Norfolk submitted by Norfolk County Council in partnership with Norfolk Rivers Trust and the Holkham Estate. The project will convert over 1400 hectares of arable farmland on the Holkham Estate into new habitat managed for nature, and will fill in existing gaps in the 'habitat mosaic' in the area.

The project involves NCC working with landowners along four chalk rivers (Hun, Stiffkey, Burn, Glaven) and the North Norfolk Coastal strip between Hunstanton and Weybourne (land between the sea and the A149).

This shows the ecological significance and complexity of the local landscape in North Norfolk. A recent ecological survey recorded nearly 11,000 different species of wildlife, including the Natterjack Toad, Spoonbill, and Grayling.

Successful projects will be awarded a share of around £12 million in development grants and start implementation on the ground as soon as possible.

5. Norwich Western Link pre-planning consultation

Norfolk County Council's pre-planning application public consultation launched on Monday 15 August and will run for eight weeks, closing on Sunday 9 October 2022.

The consultation website has a new fly-through video and images which show what the route could look like, in addition to other information, and NCC is also holding four in-person consultation events.

People can also book phone or online appointments to discuss the proposals with members of the project team during the consultation period via the consultation website, or by emailing nwlconsultation@norfolk.gov.uk or phoning 0344 800 8020.

6. Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service

Norfolk Fire and Rescue will now be using new 'Souber Lock Snapping Tools'. These tools will help them to cut locks more safely and efficiently as they allow crews to simply cut open a lock to unlock a door, rather than knocking the door down. The less forceful equipment will save time and money for the service and for property owners e.g. housing associations because they will be knocking down fewer doors.

All wholtime stations will be receiving the new cutters as will two on-call stations in each district.

7. No-Cold-Calling Zones (NCCZ).

Norfolk Trading Standards has just launched the 300th No-Cold-Calling Zone (NCCZ) in the county. NCCZs are designated areas where residents have declared that they will not accept traders calling at their homes without an appointment, and act as a deterrent to traders and bogus callers.

The zones are particularly useful and effective in areas where residents might be at a higher risk from cold calling, due to their age or vulnerability, and creating a NCCZ is an effective way of helping to protect them. Norfolk Trading Standards follows up all reports of cold calling in an NCCZ, which may involve finding out why a trader has ignored the zone but may include more formal action.

While there is no law preventing cold calling, consumers have 14 days to cancel contracts signed at your home or place of work which have a value of more than £42. Traders who don't issue a cancellation notice allowing the 14-day cooling off period are breaking the law and Trading Standards may be able to take enforcement action.

A lot of Beeston Regis is already covered (see the zones on the map at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/trading-standards/consumer-advice/no-cold-calling-zones>) but not all. Trading Standards support the collective wishes of the residents, so the majority of the people living in the area must want the zone to be created and it is helpful to have the support of the Parish Council.

8 Bus services

Norfolk has received £49.55 million from the Department of Transport to improve bus services and facilities. A new travel hub is proposed for Sheringham which will provide better waiting areas with real-time information to help passengers as well as being integrated with walking and cycling facilities.

There will also be a county-wide review of bus stops with upgrades to improve access for people with disabilities, to provide more real-time information and a programme of works to reduce delays to buses. Approximately £12 million of the funding will be spent on providing new or expanded bus routes and increased service frequencies on key routes, including more evening and weekend services. The detail of these routes will be worked up with bus operators and using feedback from residents, elected members and parish councils over the coming months.

The final element of the plan is to reduce fares, particularly for those under 25 who will receive a 20% discount.

9. COVID-19 vaccines for autumn booster programme

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has published its advice on which vaccines should be used in this year's autumn booster programme.

All of the available boosters provide good protection against severe illness from COVID-19 and the Committee has emphasised that getting a booster in good time before the winter season is more important for those eligible than the type of vaccine that is received. Those eligible for booster are now being contacted.