

NCC Report for July

We are starting to hold face to face meetings at County Hall, wearing masks and with all the relevant distancing. Our main concern is helping people and businesses to survive the pandemic and begin to set plans for the future.

At Cabinet on Monday July 5th we agreed to continue with the Social Infrastructure Fund which provided grants for a variety of organisation last year from The Nest, helping youngsters to keep fit to smaller Parish councils needing grants for projects.

The fund will be relaunched on July 12th and the themes for this year are building stronger communities, helping people thrive and helping the economy.

We also agreed an Infrastructure grant to help our voluntary, community and social groups to survive and continue to help their local communities.

Broadband

In 2011 we only had 42% Broadband coverage in Norfolk. In 2012 we obtained funding and began our Better Broadband for Norfolk project. Coverage has gradually increased over the years, in 2020 we became the Digital Council of the Year for our efforts. We believe we now cover 95% of Norfolk and are entering Phase 3 of our project which hopes to provide for the remaining 5% in harder to reach locations.

If you know of an area in your parish where they are having difficulty in accessing Broadband you can report it to bbfnpublicenquiries@norfolk.gov.uk and we will investigate the coverage and see what can be provided. The department will need as much information as possible to identify the exact location where there is a problem eg. Road names. Postcodes, house numbers.

Because digital connectivity played a major role in helping people during the last year or so we are also aiming to get 100% mobile phone coverage.

NCC and local operators are working together to provide SRN (Shared Rural Network) to enable the operators to share masts, and use some of our high buildings, to try to reach the 'not spots' and areas of partial coverage.

Ashes to Art

The Fire Service has launched a project to turn 65 old fire fighter helmets into works of art. They are asking amateur or professional artists to send in ideas for designs to be painted on the helmets. 65 designs will then be chosen and the helmets sent to those artists. The finished helmets will be displayed in Norwich at an exhibition then will be auctioned off and the proceeds given to the Fire Fighters Charity and Break.

To request a free information pack on how to submit a design contact Claire.boer@norfolk.gov.uk

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships
Norfolk County Council: Hingham Division
South Norfolk Council: Easton Ward