

NCC Report for September from Councillor Dewsbury

Fire Service

The summer months are usually quite quiet for most services but this year the Fire Service was working flat out. On 19th July the call centre received 808 fire calls and on 24th July there were 1672. They declared a major incident and asked for assistance and 10 fire engines came from other services to assist.

There were many large field fires and some houses were completely burnt out.

Planning for future years we are hoping Parish councils can assist with litter picking in their areas to ensure no bottles thrown on to the roadside could cause a fire and to warn local residents not to use bar-b-ques, or anything else that has a flame, in very dry areas.

Adult Learning

The new education year starts this month and Adult Learning are offering a variety of courses, some face to face and some on line. One of their new offerings is a free 6 week construction course on carpentry, bricklaying, decorating, plastering and tiling, for local residents aged 19 and over. For more information phone 0344 800 8020 or www.norfolk.gov.uk/constrution

Environment

The council is still growing trees which will be available to Parish Councils to help towards zero carbon emissions.

Highways

Highways are currently consulting on the Norwich Western Link.

The dualling of the A47 between North Tuddenham and Easton has been agreed and will start next year. This might cause some rat running through the villages by people trying to avoid the road works.

Libraries

Just as libraries have promoted Tricky Period packs for women in need of them in the past they are now offering Hygiene packs containing soap, deodorant, flannel and towel, and Warm packs for the colder months containing a hat, scarf, gloves and hot water bottle.

As part of the cost cutting exercise to cover the £60million gap foreseen for next year we are consulting on the use of mobile libraires. Not many people use them and fuel costs keep rising so they may not be sustainable in the future.

We are preparing for the fact that more people may come in to the libraries for longer periods in the winter months as they are welcoming, warm environments which provide a range of activities eg. Reading books, knit and natter for older people, Bounce and Rhyme for young children, Board games etc.

Although I am not always able to attend every Parish Council meeting I am always contactable if you need help or information about anything.