

## Report to Parish Councils for February

### Support for victims of road accidents

The Chief fire Officer has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Road Victims Trust (RVT) so that Fire fighters at the scene of an accident can signpost people to the charity for help. The RVT offers emotional and practical help and specialist counselling to people impacted by grief or trauma following a road death, serious injury or life changing collision.

### Vapes

As part of the plan to tackle the increase in young people taking up vaping the Government plans to ban disposable vapes. The County Council recently developed a vaping toolkit for schools providing self service guidance and resources to help schools implement a whole school approach to discourage non smokers from taking up vaping. Trading Standards is also working to prevent the illegal sale of vapes to children and young people.

### Digifest

NCC's Digital Inclusion Strategy supports the Digifest which aims to inspire children to consider a career in a digital industry. Throughout February there will be free events and workshops in libraries for children aged 4 – 14 years. They will be able to try stop-motion animation, 3D printing and basic coding with Lego, plus work with 3D pens and advanced coding with a canine robot. For further information [www.norfolk.gov.uk/digifest](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/digifest) To explore everything libraries offer visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/jointhelibrary](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/jointhelibrary)

### Flooding

A delegation led by Kay Mason Billig, Leader of Norfolk County Council and Henry Cator, Chair of the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance, met with MPs on January 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss how flooding in Norfolk could be addressed. They also discussed building reservoirs to capture flood water for use in times of drought.

### Highways

February 1<sup>st</sup> marked the opening of the Herring Bridge in Gt Yarmouth which was attended by hundreds of people. Work is about to start on the long Stratton Bypass.

### Museums

Ancient house, the Museum of Thetford has been awarded a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to celebrate its centenary by telling the story of its benefactors, the Duleep Singh family who provided the original funding for a museum in Thetford.

### Local agriculture

Stephen Barclay, the Secretary of State for the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recently visited Food Enterprise Hub at Easton to see Fischer Farms vertical farm, which is the largest in the country, and the Club Cultured fermentation facility. The site includes some of the most advanced and innovative farming methods in the UK making Norfolk a leading agri-food location.

Margaret

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