

November Report to Parish Council

Winter Fuel Payment and Pension Credit

This year, to qualify for the 2024 – 25 Winter fuel Payment people must apply for Pension Credit by December 21st.

People can telephone the Pension Credit Claim line to check their eligibility on 0800 991 234

Claiming Pension Credit provides access to other benefits such as help with housing costs, council tax, heating bills and cost of NHS dental treatment, glasses and transport costs to hospital appointments.

Pension Credit is separate from State Pension and tops up someone's weekly income to £218.15 if they are single, or if they have a partner, tops up a joint weekly income to £332.95.

This winter NCC will use some of the £6.7m allocated to the county through the Household Support Fund to help the thousands of people who will no longer receive the Winter Fuel Payment. The Council will work with Age UK, Citizen's Advice Bureau and others to identify those people most affected and in need of help. The rest of the funding will support other schemes including funding 'warm spaces' in local communities and 'cost of living' vouchers for families eligible for free school meals.

Adult Learning

For the second year running Adult Learning has won the Further or Higher Education Provider of the Year Award at the EDP Norfolk Education Awards 2024.

They provide a wide range of courses which enable people to learn new skills, including construction courses, or gain qualifications to improve their job prospects. They also provide courses on cooking meals on a budget and Multiply courses to help people manage their budgets. The full range of courses can be found on www.norfolk.gov.uk/adultlearning tel: 0344 800 8020

Highways

NCC Highways teams have been preparing for the winter weather with the latest technology. All 58 gritting vehicles now have the new auto-salting technology which ensures salt is not distributed unnecessarily on grass verges or other areas that do not require gritting.

Aided by satellite navigation and mapping data the vehicles will move along pre-programmed routes ensuring more accurate and precise distribution of salt to improve safety, maximise resources and avoid waste.

People will be able to check which roads are on gritting routes on www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting. The same maps will also show the location of the 2000 grit bins which anyone can use on footpaths, roads and cycle paths.

Recycling Centres

From Monday November 18th anyone wishing to take things to a recycling centre must book a slot beforehand. Slots will be available every fifteen minutes and can be booked from Monday November 11th. Bookings can be made up to 7 days before hand on the Council's website: www.norfolk.gov.uk/recyclingbooking or by phoning the Customer Service Centre tel: 0344 800 8020

People will be asked to give the registration number of the vehicle they will be using.

The Trade Waste Service for businesses will be available at the 7 largest Recycling Centres based at Caister, Dereham, Hempton, King's Lynn, Norwich North, Norwich South and Thetford. Businesses will have to give their vehicle registration number and their Waste Carriers license number. With effect from November 1st businesses will also see a change to the way costs are calculated for them to dispose of waste. The cost will be based on the size of their vehicle and the type of waste they bring, instead of the number of bags.

Each vehicle will be assessed and charged as either 'up to 50% full' or 'over 50% full'. Prices can be found on www.norfolk.gov.uk/businesswaste

Margaret

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

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