

I know some Parish Councils that meet earlier in the month are having a meeting in December but not in January and those that meet later in the month are having a meeting in January but not in December. I am therefore sending this as a December and January Report.

Budget

Last month I sent you a separate email about the need to make even more savings to enable us to cover next years budget and which invited people to send their views on our proposals.

The Public Consultation is still open. It does not close until December 16th.

Whilst proposals to save £33.552m have been identified we believe that the total amount that we need to find is £44.722m so we are still having meetings to try to identify how we can save this.

The Devolution deal that we had agreed with the previous Government to improve our financial position has been stopped by the new Government. We are awaiting details of a new deal that they are proposing.

Funding for the Norwich Western Link has also been stopped due to new objections from Natural England regarding protecting the Barbastelle bats. The Leader of the Council has written to Government Ministers to ask them to intervene to help resolve the issue.

80th Anniversary of V E and V J days.

In November I also forwarded an email from Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Board in which they were offering £500 grants to help communities commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan, next year.

The fund closes at mid day on December 9th.

Defibrillators

Working with the East of England Ambulance Service the Fire Service have made defibrillators available to local people at 12 more Fire Stations, taking the number up to 22 stations. So Norfolk Fire Stations with defibrillators for public use can now be found at: Wroxham, Downham Market, Terrington, Kings Lynn North, Massingham, Wells, Cromer, Mundesley, Carrow, Acle, Swaffham, Watton, Aylsham, Fakenham, Holt, Gt Yarmouth, Martham, Wymondham, Earlham, Hunstanton, East Harling and Methwold.

All Fire crews (in Norfolk) also carry defibrillators on frontline fire appliances for use in the emergencies that they attend.

Solar Panels

At the moment we are greatly concerned about the five large solar farms being proposed for Norfolk and that number may increase further. Because of their size the planning decisions will not be made locally but by Ed Milliband, Secretary of State for Energy, rather than the local planning councils.

If I do not see you before the New Year, I hope you have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Margaret

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships

Norfolk County Council: Hingham Division

South Norfolk Council: Easton Ward

My pronouns are she/her