

March Report

Parish Partnerships

Norfolk County Council has agreed 99 new Parish Partnership schemes. This is a 50/50 scheme and this year both NCC and the Parish Councils collectively, each contributed £384,517 to the scheme. The schemes included SAM2 speed signs as well as new trods, signage, surfacing, benches, village gateways and access improvements. The scheme was set up fifteen years ago and has made a huge contribution to village improvements.

New Recycling Centre

Plans have been submitted for a new recycling centre south of Spooner Row on the B1172. The current site on Strayground Lane, Wymondham, is not big enough to meet the current need plus there are many more new houses being built in the area.

Foster Carers

NCC needs at least fifty more foster carers because we have an average of five children coming into care each week. We already have about 1,000 in care but only 320 households where they can be fostered. Living in a family environment is better for children than residential care.

Fire Service – water rescue

The Fire Service has some new water rescue boats to assist with their response to water-based emergencies on the Broads and at large scale flooding incidents. The boats will replace the old ones at Kings Lynn, Great Yarmouth, Dereham and Carrow Stations and one will be provided for the Training Centre at Bowthorpe. We have two hundred miles of inland waterways in the county. The Fire Service does not do rescues from the sea.

Highways

To help residents get into Norwich during the National Highways A11 improvements Norfolk County Council is setting up a Beryl Bike and e-scooter network around Wymondham and Hethersett.

Beryl Bays will be set up in Wymondham, Hethersett, Cringleford and the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital.

Libraries

The new library for Kings Lynn will be opened on March 16th.

The Millennium Library at the Forum in Norwich will be temporarily closed from April 27th until mid-July whilst it is being refurbished. The early years area will be redesigned, new areas for 8 plus and for teenagers will be created and there will be a larger study space for adults. There will also be improved lighting and furniture with built in power points.

This November will mark the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the library.

Business Support

Following the success of the High Streets Matter campaign to encourage more footfall in our market towns a new initiative called Hospitality Matters has been launched to support independent retailers running pubs, restaurants, hotels, and similar businesses in the hospitality industry. It will offer bespoke training and support for these hospitality businesses.

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

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