

Liberal Democrat County Councillors Report for North Walsham Town Council

29th of March 2022

What's Going on at the County Council?

Improvements to Norfolk fire stations which will help firefighters carry out lifesaving training exercises and prepare for public safety incidents have been completed. A £1.75 million investment in 21 new training towers was completed earlier this month. It means that fire fighters can recreate real-life scenarios involving incidents at height, while still being available on local stations to respond to emergency. After receiving funding and planning approvals in 2020, construction began on new training towers at the following stations: Cromer, Holt, Mundesley, Acle, Martham, Stalham, Wroxham, Heacham, Massingham, Sandringham, Harleston, Hingham, Loddon, Long Stratton, Aylsham, Reepham, Wells, Methwold, Swaffham and East Harling fire stations.

People will get their chance over the coming weeks to take a look at, and have their say on, a set of proposed actions that are designed to address key transport challenges over the next 14 years. The Norfolk Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) is set to drive the county's transport strategy until 2036 and key challenges that the plan seeks to address include carbon reduction and air quality. The consultation runs from 21 March to 2 May. Find out more and have your say here: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/consultation/local-transport-implementation-plan-4>

The latest in Norfolk's growing chain of reuse shops opened on Friday 25 March, at Norwich South recycling centre. The purpose-built shop is set to save 100 tonnes of good quality second-hand items from being thrown away each year. It has also been revealed today that Big C is the new chosen charity which will receive a cut of the proceeds from the reuse shops. Since the first reuse shop opened in King's Lynn in 2008 more than £35,000 has been raised for charities, including East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Norfolk County Council's Chances programme has teamed up with Norwich City Football Club's Community Sports Foundation to launch a new programme for Chances participants. The Foundation's Street Life Soccer programme will support unemployed and inactive people using sport to engage participants. The programme will be delivered in four 20-week cohorts and will commence in April. The first cohort will be delivered in Norwich with a second one planned for Great Yarmouth. There is also potential for the programme to be available in Dereham, Thetford, King's Lynn and Swaffham. Activities for Chances participants will be based on similar programmes run by the Foundation but will be adapted to the needs of each individual. The programme uses sport to engage participants and provides new skills and qualifications using AQA accredited training. It also educates participants on relevant topics and supports positive mental wellbeing through social inclusivity. This approach supports progression into further education, volunteering, training

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or employment. AQA Units will cover essential life skills such as budgeting skills, employability, handling conflict, self- evaluation, working as a team and CV writing. All participants will have an action plan in place to ensure their personal aims and objectives are worked towards and achieved. Outcomes could include work experience, volunteering, further education and current employment opportunities. Many of the people that the programme supports are referred by a range of bodies including voluntary, community and social organisations and job centre plus. Individuals who are keen to find out more are also welcome to contact the project team directly – contact details and further information are available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/chances.

Cllr Lucy Shires – North Walsham East

Future SEND provision for North Walsham

On the 14th of March, Cllr Penfold and I met with the Assistant Director for SEND Strategic Improvement and the Head of Education Infrastructure and Partnership. North Walsham is a consideration for a future SEN school.

Speeding in North Walsham (Inc. Brick Kiln Estate)

The City College Norwich acting and production arts students took their newly-created performance to Year 7 students at North Walsham High School. The performance was targeted at this age group as they are considered to have a significantly increased risk of being involved in road accidents as they begin travelling independently.

I am meeting with the Road Safety Team Manager on Wednesday the 23rd of March to receive an update of this project and continue to meet monthly.

The Town Centre

King's Arms Loke has been repaired and the poor repair by Openreach been repaired in Market Place.

Lynfield Estate Drainage

We are still waiting on a response from The Crown as to whether or not the land can be transferred to a public body which Anglian Water will then enable progress on this matter.

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Surveys

Surveys are taking part across the town and I spent some time on Friday speaking with residents along Kimberley Road, alongside District Council Colleagues. Residents have outlined issues with speeding and poor parking at the junction of Lime Tree Road.

Pupils awaiting neurology assessments

The estimated wait is currently a minimum of three years, this issue will be coming to HOSC in May, having been postponed for many months.

North Walsham Forum

I was unable to make the meeting of The Forum on the 10th of March, due to having covid.

Paston College

Adult education courses continue to have good uptake, the next start date is after Easter for digital skills <https://www.paston.ac.uk/courses/functional-skills/course/essential-digital-skills/>

Other Highways issues

The potential way forward found for pound lane seems to currently have stalled due to the highways legal team, I am still pushing for a solution to be found.

I have been informed that this year's Highways budget ran out last month and will not be replenished until the net financial year.

Lucy Shires

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