



Norfolk County Council

My apologies for not being with you tonight as I have three Parishes meeting on the same evening, but I leave my report in the very capable hands of Councillor Easter.

Happy New Year to you all,

Back to school advice issued by UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

As pupils and students return to school following the Christmas break, UKHSA is reminding people that winter illnesses continue to circulate at high levels.

[Following these simple steps](#) can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System

Norfolk's health and care system experiencing high demand for services

With health and care services in Norfolk and Waveney extremely busy caring for some very sick patients, people are being urged to use services wisely and to look after themselves.

There is very high demand for all health and care services at the moment and it is vital we keep as many beds as possible in our acute hospitals free for people needing urgent and emergency treatment, our community hospitals free to provide continuing care, and our ambulances on the road able to respond to emergency calls.

It is really important people do not delay seeking help from the NHS if they feel unwell. However, with local health services experiencing high demand, people are being urged to only attend an Emergency Department if it's absolutely necessary.

The best way to get the medical help you need is to think NHS 111 first. Visit 111.nhs.uk or call 111 for anything that feels urgent, or if you are unsure what to do. They can direct you to the most appropriate place. In life-threatening emergencies dial 999

AVIAN FLU

Advice for the public

The public are advised to keep to designated footpaths, not to feed wild birds, and keep dogs on leads. Don't touch sick or dead birds, their feathers, or their droppings. If you see a dead bird, please report it to Defra's helpline on 03459 335577. Sick birds should be reported to the RSPCA (0300 1234 999) who may be able to help.

Housing with care flats in Norfolk helping people leave hospital

10 Housing with Care flats across Norfolk are being used to support people who are medically fit but need care at home to leave hospital.

People will temporarily move from a hospital bed to a flat in a Housing with Care scheme for up to four weeks. They will receive 24/7 care and support before moving back to their home.

Developed as a partnership between Norfolk County Council, the landlords (Broadland Housing Association and Saffron Housing Trust), NorseCare, Country Kitchen Foods Norfolk and NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board the flats will be available until 31 March.

Prudent planning for potential winter power cuts

Parts of England were off grid for a week or more during Storm Arwen.

Norfolk County Council has therefore decided to put some advice on its website, so that people can make some prudent plans now, in the remote possibility that something similar happens here.

Link to the County Council advice [here](#)

Children's services

Plan for 26 new or expanded schools in Norfolk

A total of 26 new schools could be built across the county within the next 10 years as part of Norfolk County Council's £308 million Local Growth and Investment Plan.

A report to the council's cabinet will set out the need for new school-builds and eight existing school expansions to ensure sufficient places in 24 areas of major planned housing growth.

But while some areas are set to grow significantly, there has been an overall decline in the birth rate in Norfolk of 19% since 2012 which has led to 523 fewer primary places being needed this year. This decline reflects the national picture generally of reducing birth rate.

Cabinet will consider the report when it meets on 11 January 2023.

Link to Cabinet agenda [here](#)

Transport

Department of Transport launch get around for £2 bus scheme

The scheme is part of the Government's Help for Households campaign designed to support families through cost-of-living pressures.

Nine bus operators in Norfolk have announced that they will be taking part in the Bus Fare Cap Grant scheme.

This means that a single journey on all services run by these operators between 1 January and 31 March 2023 will cost no more than £2 thanks to funding from HM Government.

Further details of participating Norfolk bus operators [here](#)

Further information about the national schem

New electric vehicle chargepoints for Norwich

Norfolk's switch to greener motoring will power forward in 2023 with the arrival of 40-plus new kerbside charge points in residential areas across Norwich.

Following a procurement process which attracted a number of high quality bids, Norfolk County Council announced that it will award a contract in January which will give drivers in Norwich easier access to re-charge their electric vehicles.

It is expected that installations will be installed and available to use by members of the public in summer 2023.

Chargepoints (EVCPs) will be available to all members of the public, helping everyone access the charging infrastructure, which is crucial to the transition to electric vehicles, particularly for residents who do not have access to off-street parking - where they could otherwise charge their vehicles.

Visitors, trades people and taxi drivers will also be able to access these chargepoints.

Funding will come from a third-party supplier and operator along with subsidies from UK Power Networks and the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles' On Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme where necessary.

Appeals from the Norfolk Coroner's Service for help tracing next-of-kin

- The Norfolk Coroner's Service is appealing for help to trace the family of a woman who died at her home address. 38-year-old Joanne Turner lived at an address in Armes Street, Norwich and died on 28 December 2022. There were no suspicious circumstances.
- The Norfolk Coroners Service is trying to trace the next of kin of Julius Taylor, aged 61, who resided at St Winnold Close, Downham Market, and died on 18 December 2022. There were no suspicious circumstances that led to his death.
- The Norfolk Coroner's Service are appealing for help to trace the family of a man who has died in Norfolk. Andrew Blyth, aged 59, died at his home address in Mattishall on 19 December 2022.

Despite carrying out enquiries, officers have been unable to trace any next-of-kin.

Anyone who may have known them should contact the Coroner's Officer in Norwich on 01603 774773.

Holt Hall I can confirm has been sold to Greshams School in Holt. I do not at this stage know whether it will be available to other educational establishments but as soon as I do I will update you.

I hope to see you at your next meeting but should you need me in the meantime please email or call me

