



Latest update on events from your County Councillor Tom FitzPatrick

Raynham Parish Council

31st January 2023

COVID-19 Trusted sources of information

The most recent **verified data on cases in the UK and Norfolk** is available from [Public Health England](#) and [Norfolk Insights](#).

Everyone has a key role in promoting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and www.gov.uk/coronavirus as trusted sources of information to the public. It is important to ensure people go to the right sources of information and keep up to date with how to look after themselves.

- **Keep up to date:** We have [a dedicated webpage for coronavirus updates](#) in Norfolk and impact on Norfolk County Council services.
- **Service updates:** The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#).

Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System

COVID-19 vaccination site in Norwich ready to move

NHS staff are preparing for the move from City Hall to Castle Quarter for Norwich's large vaccination centre.

COVID-19 vaccinations will continue to be available at City Hall until Monday 31 January. A new centre will open in Castle Quarter from Thursday 2 February.

All clinics at Castle Quarter will have the same timings as they currently do at City Hall; Thursday – Monday 9am until 4pm.

They say that the new centre will be a lot more than just a vaccination centre. It is the start of a new initiative where NHS Norfolk and Waveney, working with partner organisations will open Vaccine and Wellbeing Hubs to support health and care in local communities.

The new Wellbeing Hubs will continue the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccinations, but they will also offer access to wider health support, lifestyle and wellbeing advice, and welfare support services to ensure our local communities can access even more health and care services in more of a one stop shop.

Wellbeing Hubs will also work closely with their WOW Bus (Wellbeing on Wheels) which travels across Norfolk and Waveney reaching those who do not access health in the traditional ways.

Further information [here](#).

Cold weather

Norfolk County Council's webpages include health and wellbeing advice and support to help people keep warm and well. Link [here](#).

Public Health - Avian flu update

Please share this information with anybody you know that keeps poultry and encourage them to register with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) poultry register.

- The latest Norfolk outbreak was confirmed on 12 January 2023. Details [here](#).
- Government information regarding the latest situation on Avian Influenza, and the Prevention Zone requirements, can be found [here](#).
- Mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds were introduced to all areas of England from 7 November. Further information [here](#).

If you have 50 or more birds, you are legally required to register but you can choose to register voluntarily if you have less than that. By doing so you will be kept informed on the latest bird flu information so you can take action to reduce the risk to your birds, which in turn reduces the risk to all UK poultry. It's quick and easy to register [here](#).

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.

Norfolk County Council's budget proposals

Norfolk County Council's budget proposals were considered by cabinet yesterday (30th January) they include:

- A net spending **increase** of £29.6 million to meet rising costs.
- A Council Tax increase in line with the Government's cap of 4.99 per cent – 2.99 per cent for general Council Tax and two per cent for the adult social care precept. This would increase the county council's share of band D bills from £1,516.95 to £1,592.64.
- A "significant proportion" of the £59.7 million savings coming from "doing things better for less", including £17 million from the first phase of a strategic review of the council.

Following public consultation, the report to cabinet proposed that Wednesday closing of recycling and household waste centres is not introduced and that savings from the mobile library service are restricted to removing unused stops (ie where there have been no customers over a period on time).

Yesterday's meeting also considered our £956.9 million capital investment in buildings and equipment, funded by grants and property sales. In addition to a range of existing schemes, like the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing and investment in special education needs (SEND) schools, there are new investments totalling £35 million.

The next full meeting of the County Council will take the final decision on the council's budget when it meets on the 21st February.

Children's Services

New programme to improve support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

A new six-year programme to improve support for children and young people with SEND will see increased outreach support and advice for schools and early help for families, was agreed by the council's cabinet yesterday (31st January).

Called Local 1st Inclusion, the new special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) improvement programme aims to continue to deliver hundreds of new specialist education places through two more new-build schools, and more specialist resource bases (SRBs) and school-led Alternative Provision.

New local support teams, due to be launched later in the year, aim to significantly improve support for schools and families providing earlier help to prevent needs escalating.

- To help create the funding needed for Local 1st Inclusion, the county council's cabinet report recommended asking Norfolk Schools Forum to agree 1.5% of schools' funding is moved to the high needs SEND budget to provide an additional £9m. This would need to be ratified by the Secretary of State for Education.
- If agreed, the cash would be added to other funding for SEND from the Government's Dedicated Schools Grant of around £135m, plus £5.5m per year from the county council, achieving an overall sum of £150m for 2023/24.
- Local 1st Inclusion will be run by the county council working closely with schools. The council is awaiting confirmation of support for the programme by the Department for Education, which is working closely with 40 other councils across England and Wales on similar programmes.
- Subject to additional financial support from the DfE, the aim of Local 1st Inclusion is that by 2029 there will be the right mix of educational places with the right support for all children and young people with SEND with a balanced budget providing a sustainable and effective system enabling this group of youngsters to flourish in their education.

Support, advice and information for anyone in the life of a child or young person who has special needs and/or a disability in Norfolk

Further information and support is available on the SEND local offer website [here](#).

Digifest returns to Norfolk libraries in February

Digifest, which aims to inspire the next generation of coders and creators, is back for another year.

- Throughout the whole of February there will be lots of events taking place across the library service for children aged four to 14. Some events are one-off specials, such as a Lego Stop-Motion event, and the chance to use the

Codeapillar or a Coding Critter to start learning about programming. There will also be a chance to have a taster session of the Code Club.

- The free workshops will run throughout the month and hope to spark an interest in technology among Norfolk's youngest residents.

Digifest works within Norfolk County Council's Digital Inclusion Strategy and helps young people with the use of creative digital technologies, aiming to inspire them to pursue a career in a digital industry.

Alongside Digifest, Norfolk Libraries offer a whole host of digital initiatives for all ages, including:

- A suite of apps, such as Press Reader, which allows you to read digital versions of magazines and newspapers, and Libby, which lets you borrow digital copies of books
- Digital Health Hubs which give people 1:1 support to get access to online health services
- The National Databank which provides adults in need with 6-months of free data via a SIM card
- A team of Digital Champions who help people, usually 1:1, to improve their computer skills
- Code Clubs and Robotics Clubs

Explore events taking place across Norfolk libraries throughout Digifest [here](#).

Techathon is back – 16th and 17th February 2023!

A two-day Hackathon for young people, part of Norwich Science Festival.

Tickets for the two-day event cost a maximum of £10, and include lunch, snacks and refreshments on both days. [Book your tickets on Eventbrite now!](#)

Techathon lets young people aged 8 to 18 explore the possibilities of technology in an informal and creative environment. Over the course of two days, each team takes on one of our challenges, trying out ideas, finding out what works and what doesn't.

It's a great opportunity to meet like-minded people, expert mentors and even potential future employers. It's a fun-packed event with the opportunity to learn new skills, make friends and even win prizes. Find out more in our FAQs (below), or [check out the images](#) from our last event. For any additional queries email hello@stepintotech.org.

There are four prizes: Idea, Teamwork, Awesomeness and Implementation.

What is the Techathon?

A two day event held at Norwich School where young people have fun exploring tech and taking on tech challenges. To give you more of a flavour [check out the images from our last techathon](#).

Who is the Techathon for?

Young people aged 8-18 who are not yet at university and are interested in tech.

Does my child need to know how to program or have any technology experience?

No, the Techathon is for anyone, from complete beginners to tech wizards. The challenges are designed to let everyone take part and approach them in their own way – whether that's thinking about ways to tackle a problem, designing a possible solution, building something in Scratch or taking on some advanced coding. There will be friendly, professional mentors on hand to help.

How much will attending the Techathon cost?

A two day ticket costs £10, which includes lunch / snacks / refreshments for the young person. **If cost is a problem for you, please contact the organisers who can provide a free ticket thanks to the support of our sponsors.** You can get tickets online.

What will my child get out of attending the Techathon?

They can find out about different technologies, and learn from each other and from mentors who are already working in the tech industry. It's not just about programming / coding – there's the opportunity to develop other skills like understanding how to approach a challenge and work in a team. It's also a chance to make friends and have fun.

Tom FitzPatrick

County Councillor for Fakenham Division

(Dunton, Fakenham, Helhoughton, Hempton, Pudding Norton, Raynham & Tattersett)

My contact details are:

Email: tom.fitzpatrick.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Phone: 01603 989809

Mobile No: 07803 166293

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