



Latest update on events from your District Councillor Tom FitzPatrick

Raynham Parish Council

29th March 2023

Parish Partnership Funding – Trod for West Raynham

At the County Council Cabinet Meeting at the beginning of this month I was pleased to be able to vote for a number of projects, including 50% funding for the Trod adjacent to the bowling green in West Raynham, following the bid made by the Parish Council through the latest Parish Partnership funding round. Hopefully work will be able to get underway relatively quickly.

Government Funding: Cultural Investment Fund includes new funding for the Castle Museum, Norwich

More than 70 cultural organisations across the country are to be given a financial boost by the government so they can improve people's access to arts, support local economic growth through culture and safeguard vital local collections for future generations.

- As part of this funding, the Museum Estate and Development Fund, which supports urgent maintenance and infrastructure works, has awarded £391,920 to Norwich Castle Museum.
- This government funding will enable an urgently needed upgrade of the Building Management System at the Norwich Castle Museum (and the connected Shirehall Study centre) which includes the temperature control system that is critical for the ongoing protection of the fabric of the buildings and their collections.

County Deal for Norfolk - update

Norfolk County Council has received funding from central government to secure new affordable homes to rent in Norwich.

Norfolk County Council successfully bid for the money during the negotiations on the in-principle county deal devolution agreement, which was signed last December. The £2 million received by the county council will be transferred to Norwich City Council, which will buy a number of new homes currently under construction by its own company, NRL Ltd and use them for affordable housing for rent.

- The county deal would give Norfolk new powers and further funding to unlock housing and employment sites to drive regeneration and build affordable homes.

- Subject to reaching final agreement later this year, the deal with the government will also enable the county council to invest in areas such as better transport, skills and job opportunities, tailored to the specific needs of local people.

Public Consultation on the County Deal

A public consultation about the deal closed on 20 March. The County Council's Cabinet will meet in the summer to consider the results of the consultation, decide whether to proceed and, if so, submit the consultation results to the Government.

- **All County Councillors** will be asked in the December 2023 Full Council Meeting whether they support the move to an elected leader and cabinet system of governance.

Should the County Council decide to move forward on the Deal, in spring 2024, Parliament will decide whether to approve the 'statutory instrument' required to let the Deal proceed.

Adult Social Care

The determination and dedication of staff working across Adult Social Care was recognised at a special event (held 16 March) to mark the third anniversary of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The event saw the launch of a new anthology of poetry, 16 Sonnets for Care, which was commissioned by Norfolk County Council and Skills for Care to mark the significant contribution and commitment of those working in social care during the pandemic.

Written by local poet Martin Figura, the poems are based on first-hand accounts from carers in the council's Norfolk First Response (NFR) team.

Martin attended the event, at the Norwich Millennium Library, where he read a selection of the poetry. A short film was also played, with staff from NFR voicing Martin's poetry.

The film is available on YouTube [here](#).

Making it Real Board launch new training programme

New Coproduction training has been launched by the Making it Real Board in Norfolk to ensure people with disabilities and unpaid carers are involved in developing new social care services.

- The new on-line training package is for Norfolk County Council staff and will provide good examples of co-production and how to do this correctly, from start to finish. It has been developed to help ensure that disabled people with lived experiences of Adult Social Services, are involved in the planning of changes in social care.

- The Making it Real Board is an independent group of disabled people and unpaid carers. Some of the board members represent groups of disabled people and carers across Norfolk and others are individual members. The board is also attended by appointed NCC Councillors.

Norfolk County Council - trees for Norfolk

As the 1 million Trees for Norfolk initiative approaches the end of its third planting season, Norfolk County Council is excited to announce a significant milestone in the journey to a greener, healthier county.

- The aim of 200,000 trees by the end of this season has been exceeded, with the total now standing at nearly 210,000 trees and hedgerows planted. The efforts of the community and our partner organisations have been vital in us achieving this and in securing a sustainable future for Norfolk.
- With funding secured for the next planting season in November, Norfolk County Council will continue to work towards the goal of planting 1 million trees by 2025.

More information about the 1 million trees for Norfolk initiative is available [here](#).

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Scheme for Easter

Children across Norfolk can benefit from a range of fun activities this Easter, as the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun scheme returns for the two-week school holiday.

- Big Norfolk Holiday Fun is a Norfolk County Council scheme delivered alongside our partners Active Norfolk, with funding provided by the Department for Education. It helps children to be more active, eat well and have fun.
- It supports children aged 5 to 16 as part of the government's Holiday Activities and Food programme and will have 90 providers, including more provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Activities will run from 3 - 17 April and are now open for bookings.

- The scheme is **free** for children eligible for means tested free school meals, and for young carers and children who are refugees.
- Paid spots for a small charge are available on many activities for those who don't qualify for a free place.

Find further information and details of how to book [here](#).

Learn about the justice system

HM Courts and Tribunal Services will be running an open day at Norwich Crown, Family & County Courts at Bishopsgate in Norwich on Thursday, 6 April 2023 from 10am - 3pm.

The event is a chance to see behind the scenes and find out how the justice systems runs and during the day. Visitors will be able to:

- observe a mock trial
- meet a sniffer dog
- learn about mediation
- experience a video link
- visit the cells.

Entry is free and booking isn't needed. Visitors will be expected to go through security to enter the courts and no photography will be allowed.

PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICE

The Norfolk Coroner's Service is trying to trace the next of kin of Mr Michael Graham Penfold, aged 64, who resided in Norwich NR3 area and died on 13 March 2023.

There were no suspicious circumstances that led to his death. Despite carrying out extensive enquiries, no next-of-kin have been identified by the Coroner's Office.

Anyone with information relating to Mr Penfold should contact the Coroner's Office in Norwich on 01603 774773.

Tom FitzPatrick

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