

# News from County Councillor Tom FitzPatrick

Raynham Parish Council

25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Former West Raynham Airbase (The Orchard, Kiptons and Business Park)

I had asked last year to have a route from here onto the A148 via East Rudham added to the current gritting run which actually runs through Helhoughton village. This was turned down as not all roads are gritted and the aim is to ensure a connection to main roads and it will not necessarily follow the most direct route. I appealed the decision, in conjunction with the county councillor for the Rudhams as the majority of this other route would be through his division. However, this was not successful. There was a grit bin at the entrance to the Kiptons and this would allow local application of grit, but I understand that this has been removed. I requested that the route via the Rudhams was added for this year and offered to pay from my highways capital budget, but this has not been possible. However, I have raised this directly with the relevant Cabinet member and the Director of Highways, emphasising the increase in the number of residents and the enhanced business use which makes us of the more direct route, and I expect to see this added when the review of gritting routes is carried out later on this year.

## 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](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) and [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://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. This is updated regularly so please do re-visit this page.
- **Service updates:** The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#). The council will continue to monitor its services and, if regulations and circumstances change, it will review its current plans.

<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/health/no-pcr-for-people-with-positive-lateral-flow-8612530>

## National announcements

**On 19 January, the Prime Minister announced changes to England's Covid restrictions, with rules to be eased on masks, working from home and vaccine passports.**

- Guidance to work from home has ended.
- Staff and pupils in secondary schools and colleges will not be required to wear a face covering in classrooms.
- From 27 January it will not be mandatory to show your NHS COVID Pass at venues.
- From 27 January you will not be required to wear a face covering, including in communal areas of schools.

To minimise the threat of Covid the government continues to advise:

- Get vaccinated
- Let fresh air in if you meet indoors, meeting outdoors is safer
- Continue to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed settings where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

- Get tested, and self-isolate if required
- Stay at home if you are feeling unwell
- Isolate and take a PCR if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19
- Regularly wash or sanitise your hands
- Download and use the NHS COVID-19 app

Further information [here](#)

## Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group

### Free Jab Cab

People across Norfolk and Waveney can use a free Jab Cab service which covers a return trip from home to visit a vaccination site and receive a COVID-19 jab.

Norfolk and Waveney CCG in collaboration with system health and care partners are funding the Jab Cab service until 28 February 2022.

The service aims to help people who are struggling to get a COVID-19 vaccination dose and to encourage as many people as possible to come forward and get protected against severe complications of catching COVID-19.

Eligible for people who are having a first, second, booster or fourth jab. Health and care leaders across the region are hoping people take up the opportunity of a free journey to protect their health.

In order to claim your free journey, please book your [COVID-19 jab online](#) or check which [walk-in centre](#) you'd like to visit, then call a participating, local taxi company to you and book your journey.

To book, simply visit the Norfolk and Waveney CCG website to view a list of participating taxi companies, choose your local firm and call to book your free vaccination journey.

The Jab Cab service will run from 08:00 17 January 2022 until 20:00 28 February 2022.

For more information and a list of participating taxi companies please visit [Grab a jab with the Jab Cab - Norfolk and Waveney CCG](#)

## Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service

Norfolk Fire and Rescue in partnerships with the College of West Anglia runs a free 12-week Prince's Trust Team Programme for young people looking to boost their skills and confidence to get into work, training or education.

They run courses in Norwich, Dereham and King's Lynn, with the Norwich course starting yesterday (Monday, 24 January) and the other two beginning on 31 January.

There is still time to join the Dereham and King's Lynn courses, although the taster days ran for both locations today (January 25<sup>th</sup>). If you know someone aged 16-25 near Dereham or King's Lynn, let them know about the course.

- We would appreciate your support in sharing details about Team to your communities.

To learn more about the Team go to [www.norfolk.gov.uk/nfrsyouth](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/nfrsyouth).

## Apprenticeships Norfolk

As businesses get set to recover from the pandemic, now is the time to apply for financial and business support. Apprenticeships Norfolk has secured over £1.9m of external funding to help businesses develop their workforce through an apprenticeship scheme.

- There are a variety of grants and incentives available, to support apprentices and to support a business to start an apprenticeship.
- Information about all current grants and incentives can be found at: [Grants and Incentives from Apprenticeships Norfolk](#)

### Access to Apprenticeships, grants of up to £500 for 16–24-year-olds

As of 1 December, new funding has been provided to address social mobility issues, ensuring financial barriers to apprenticeship opportunities are removed for individuals, particularly following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Access to Apprenticeships (A2A) provides bursary grants to improve the opportunity for those aged 16-24 in Norfolk, to be able to start an apprenticeship.

- The grant, of up to £500, will help young people to access funding towards the cost of travel expenses or to buy the equipment they need to start work in a specific trade.
- It could also help provide access to digital equipment/connectivity.

### Progression to Apprenticeships (P2A), keeping young people on a career path

Progression to Apprenticeships (P2A) is a pilot project running until June 2022. This project is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund to incentivise and support progression from previous 'feeder' apprenticeship schemes like Kickstart and Traineeships.

- P2A aims to increase the number of young people aged 16-24 moving into an apprenticeship by joining up existing initiatives.
- P2A will also help decrease the number of young people returning to Universal Credit/other benefits following completion of a feeder programme.

Offering financial support at transition and in the first 26 weeks the pilot will offer reduced financial burden for the organisation at a time when the new apprentice needs more resource (supervision and mentoring) and is building the ability to 'add value' to the organisation. This mitigates some of the risks and costs associated with the onboarding and mentoring of new employees:

- £1500 incentive; £500 paid on signup, £1000 paid after 12 weeks
- Six-month wage contribution; paid upfront in two instalments, based on 37.5 hours a week at Apprenticeship NMW (one at sign up and one after 12 weeks)

Further information about Norfolk Apprenticeships can be found [here](#)

## Health and Wellbeing - Active Norfolk

### New Activity Finder website for Norfolk launches to help people find exercise opportunities which suit them

Active Norfolk is the Active Partnership for Norfolk, one of a network of 43 Active Partnerships created by Sport England. They are hosted by Norfolk County Council.

Active Norfolk have recently launched a new activity finder platform called Every Move. The new platform now has its own website to ensure users who are looking to find exercise opportunities in their areas have just one place to look.

The website works by activity providers, sports clubs and informal activity groups across the county registering an account and then using the site to list details of their activity sessions including times, locations, dates, facilities and accessibility provision.

- Providers and clubs can also upload images of their sessions and detailed descriptions so people looking to start a new form of activity can gain as much information ahead of attending the sessions as possible.

The launch of the website has been timed to coincide with 'peak season' for physical activity as more people make resolutions to adopt healthier lifestyles through physical activity following the festive and new year periods.

Visit the site now and find new ways to get active at [www.everymove.uk](http://www.everymove.uk)

Further information about health and wellbeing in Norfolk can be found [here](#)

## **Tom FitzPatrick**

**County Councillor for Fakenham Division** (Dunton, Fakenham, Helhoughton, Hempton, Pudding Norton, Raynham & Tattersett)

Email: [tom.fitzpatrick.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:tom.fitzpatrick.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk)

Mobile No: 07803 166293

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