

**Barry Stone - County Councillor for Clavering**

## *Parish Council News Update*

*November 2022*



As we rapidly progress towards Christmas, I expect we will all be busy planning for that happy time although maybe slightly more subdued this year due to the economic situation. Margaret and I have had a wonderful year with some memorable holidays, several pre booked up to two years ago. I hope you have all enjoyed your summer and can now look forward to a more relaxing period with friends and families.

I have included below some of the current initiatives reports from County for your information.

### **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](#).

### **UK Commission on Covid Commemoration**

#### **Covid Commemoration Consultation**

The UK Commission on Covid Commemoration has launched a consultation giving people across the UK the opportunity to say how they think the pandemic should be remembered and with possible suggestions including the adoption of a Remembrance Sunday-style symbol, dedicated memorials and reflective spaces.

The Commission is also seeking suggestions on suitable dates to hold a national day of remembrance and views on how future generations should be educated about the sacrifices made throughout the pandemic, as well as marking key achievements such as the development of the vaccines and the valuable contribution made by volunteers.

The public consultation will close on 5 December 2022.

The Commission will report its recommendations to the Prime Minister by the end of March 2023. Further details and a link to the consultation [here](#).

### **Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation**

As in previous years the council will be consulting Norfolk residents and stakeholders on council tax and budget proposals as part of the budget setting process.

Norfolk County Council will set a new budget on 21st February 2023. Ahead of this, they will be asking for views on the proposed council tax level for 2023-24, including a proposal for the adult social care precept. As a part of this work, they will also be consulting on a number of changes to services to contribute to our reduction in spending as a council.

You can have your say at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget) and paper copies of the consultation can be requested via email at [haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk) **Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation**

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The consultation will run from 21 October to 16 December 2022. Findings will be considered by the Cabinet on 30 January, before the full council finalises the budget on 21 February 2023.

## **Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS)**

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service are reminding residents to make Halloween a treat this year by not being tricked by fire hazards.

There are many ways to enjoy Halloween safely and this year, NFRS would like to remind residents of some useful fire safety tips to keep your family safe.

If you are planning to decorate your home with jack o' lanterns on the night, consider replacing the candles with battery operated tea lights. Over 300 people are injured by candle flames in the UK each year and unattended candles are a common cause of housefires. Battery operated tea lights carry far less of a fire risk than burning candles. If a lantern is knocked over a fire can quickly spread, something the battery-operated lights will not do: consider making this simple change to keep your home safe.

If a costume that you or anyone is wearing catches fire, remember to stop, drop to the floor, and roll around to smother the flames to put them out. This is the best way to put out a clothing fire and could save you from serious burn injuries.

Many bonfires and firework displays are held in Norfolk over the Halloween and Bonfire Night period. Where possible, always consider attending organised events, managed by trained individuals, rather than hosting your own at home.

Fire crews are ready all year round, so if you do spot a fire please stay a safe distance from the blaze, stay calm and phone 999 and ask for the fire service. Never try and tackle a fire by yourself, the crews are trained professionals and will extinguish the fire safely.

## **E-scooter trial extended**

Norfolk County Council has agreed to extend the current e-scooter trial in Norwich to 31 May 2024. There will also be an increase in the number of e-scooters available and new bays planned for Hethersett and Drayton.

Initially launched as a bike share scheme, a fleet of 100 e-scooters were added to Norwich in September 2020 as part of the Department for Transport's (DfT) pilot. Since they arrived there have been more than 368,000 e-scooter journeys travelling more than 1,155,00km.

Feedback from over 4000 journeys tells us that on average 32% of journeys have replaced either a car, taxi or motorbike. According to industry calculations, this has saved almost 49 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, the equivalent of 284 flights from London to Edinburgh.

As always, I am here to help in any way I can and will always respond to email and telephone requests for assistance.

Email: [barry.stone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:barry.stone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk)

Phone: Home: 01508 499389

Mobile: 07434 905963

Best wishes for the coming Festive Season

**Barry**