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**Norfolk County Councillor for Clavering**

**Chairman on Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**84 Councillors. 55 Conservative. 17 Labour. 11 Liberal Democrat.**

Parish or Urban areas within the Division: **Aldeby, Broome, Burgh St Peter with Wheatacre, Denton, Ditchingham, Earsham, Ellingham, Geldeston, Gillingham, Haddiscoe, Hales, Heckingham, Hedenham, Kirby Cane, Norton Subcourse, Raveningham, Stockton, Thurlton, Thwaite St Mary, Toft Monks, Topcroft, Wortwell, Alburgh**

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## **Task and Finish committee looking at Rural transport**

**We** are convening a committee tasked with reviewing all transport in rural and urban areas. We continue to subsidise some routes and also subsidise the Border Hopper.

The voluntary car scheme is a great initiative by Alburgh and maybe Denton will join in the initiative

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## **Road side grass cutting**

A few years ago, we implemented an 'intermittent cutting' policy on these roads. This meant that grass-cuts were focussed on bends and junctions and the full length of the roadside verges were cut less frequently.

As this was reviewed a few years ago there are no current plans to change the cutting policy. However, we are producing a pollinator action plan which will likely reopen discussions on verge management.

It is also worth highlighting that we work with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust to maintain 112 Roadside Nature Reserves which contain wildflowers. These are not subject to the same cutting regime as the rest of the rural network and are usually cut later in the year to encourage the finer slower growing grasses and when the plants have had a chance to flower and set seed.

As you can appreciate there are a variety of factors to consider when determining the best approach for a large rural county like Norfolk – which will be considered as the Pollinator Action

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## **SAMs**

Have you analysed it

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Northern Distributer Road. "Norwich Western Link

**Having** considered the consultation responses alongside other crucial information, such as transport benefits, environmental effects, value for money and impacts on local communities, we have recommended **Option C**, a new 3.9 mile dual carriageway road, as the best overall solution and preferred route for the Norwich Western Link.

Option C would link from the roundabout at the western end of Broadland Northway and extend for around 350 metres along the A1067 Fakenham Road before turning in a south-westerly direction via a new junction. The road would cross the River Wensum on a viaduct and then continue at or near ground level for the remainder of its length. It would link to the A47 via a new junction at Wood Lane (B1535), which forms part of Highways England's plan to dual the A47 between North Tuddenham and Easton. Please see the attached map which shows the route.

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## **£120m investment special school places to reduce transport costs going further afield**

Norfolk County Council will be investing £120m in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision in the County. A new strategy setting out how Norfolk intends to support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities over the next three years is out for public consultation

- Typical cost of transport for a child travelling to a specialist education setting = £35,000 per year
- £13 million per year in transport alone to special school

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## **We are investing £29m in Housing with Care**

This year we announced £29m capital investment scheme to deliver 3,000 extra homes for older people in Norfolk over the next ten years.

Norfolk requires 2,842 extra care units by 2028.

Increasing the provision of extra care housing to match future demand will deliver approximately £4m gross revenue saving per year

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## **Parish Partnerships:**

We continue to offer some matched funding for Highways schemes such as Speed Activated Monitoring SAMs and other highways furniture like Gateway structures as you enter Villages. There is also a much larger sum available but competitive, and/or shared within my Division of Clavering equating to £6,000.

**Please let me know of any issues which you would like me to advise on or support**  
**I always answer emails very quickly unless I am away**

**Margaret**