

Report

Marie Strong: County Councillor

Coasthopper:

Hopefully you will have picked up information about the meeting at the Maltings, Wells on 6 November 4.00-5.30pm to discuss the future of the Coasthopper. If not the next meeting is on Friday 15 November at Sheringham Community Centre 4.00-5.30pm with a final meeting on Wednesday 27 November at Hunstanton Community Centre again 4.00-5.30pm. Do get to one and share your views and ideas.

Budget:

Please do try and respond to the Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation. If you tried previously online but experienced difficulties please try again. I reported earlier problems and am told access has been improved. Go to www.norfolk.gov.uk/puttingpeoplefirst or for a hard copy ring 0344 800 8020. Remember the outcome of this budget will affect all of the services provided by the County for some three years to come so do have your say – and you have until 12 December.

Better Broadband for Norfolk:

Despite national news ‘snippets’ expressing concern about country-wide broadband projects I am assured BBfN is on schedule and within budget. Obviously we all want to know when better broadband will be reaching each of us. However, as a recent case proved, there is a danger in releasing information before it is certain there will be no obstacles in bringing BBfN to a specific town, parish or even streets. Another ‘tranche’ of areas to receive better broadband will be released by the time you read your Quay. Not in our division this time but in the not too distant future I am expecting that we Councillors will be told when and where. In the meantime keep checking on www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk

For those requiring a little more technical information here goes:

The Better Broadband for Norfolk Programme will predominantly implement Fibre to the Cabinet infrastructure, which is the most widely deployed technology in the UK as it offer the best value for money. This technology offers speeds of up to 80 Mbps. The speed does slow between the street cabinet and the property, but still offers much faster speeds than current entirely copper based connections. For instance, properties at approx 1 km from the cabinet expected to receive Superfast speeds of 24 Mbps+, with properties at 1.5 km expected to receive speeds of 15 Mbps. It is possible that a small number of properties are so far from the cabinet (over 2.5 km) that speed will degrade to below 2 Mbps, in such cases the Better Broadband for Norfolk programme will deploy an alternative technology to ensure access to at least a minimum 2 Mbps.

By the completion of the Better Broadband for Norfolk programme at the end of 2015, 83% of properties will have access to speeds of 24 Mbps+ with all other properties having access to a minimum 2 Mbps and above.

Speed reductions are no greater on overhead copper than they would be in copper carried through ducts. If you service provider has identified a problem with the connection to your home it should raise a fault with BT Openreach.

‘Flu Jabs:

The County Council now has responsibility for areas of Health so I need to remind you not to forget your ‘flu jab. If you are a mature person or have a chronic health problem, now is the time to have your seasonal flu jab. Anyone aged 65 and over, care home residents, pregnant women and people with chronic illnesses such as asthma, diabetes, heart or kidney disease is entitled to receive a free jab. For more information speak to your GP or local pharmacist, or visit www.nhs.uk/flu.

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