

News from County Councillor Dr Marie Strong

Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation:

You should all have received a copy of Norfolk County Council's magazine 'Your Norfolk' and on pages 4 and 5 are details of how to respond to the budget consultation. The green box shows how to access the website but if you prefer you can email, 'twitter' or simply write. **Please do respond because your views are taken into account. Closing date Thursday 14 January 2016**

Wells Library and Friends Group:

Be assured that at all county council meetings I reiterate strongly my support for Norfolk's library service and in particular Wells Library and our valuable mobile library service. (My support also goes to Holt Library which is used by residents in the easterly section of our division.) This leads me on to a recently formed group with its aim of keeping and developing our library as the community focussed place it has become. Wells Library Friends Group next meets on **Friday 22nd January 9.30am**. The group are looking for others to join them in supporting activities held within the library by offering time to help run author events, book speakers, or help plan and promote library events. Come along on the 22nd or contact Jan Campbell – Library Manager 01328 710467/862715.

Wells Dementia Friendly Committee:

This is a most worthy committee which I am honoured to have joined with representatives from a wide range of businesses and organisations, including Pauline Catton representing Wells Town Council. A number of activities are to be held such as North Norfolk's first Dementia Information Day which, with the continued support of Age UK, will be held on Tuesday 12 April 10.30-3.00. This will be jointly hosted by Heritage House and Wells Community Hospital. 2016 sees North Norfolk's first Memory Walk which will be held in the grounds of Holkham Hall on Sunday, September 18th. For more information about dementia friendly Wells go to www.dementiafriendlynorfolk.com

Better Broadband for Norfolk:

I was intending to provide an update on the Norfolk wide BBfN programme but since the last edition another Wells cabinet has gone live – Wells 3. This cabinet is situated on the coast road outside Holkham village and serves a number of properties in the village and into the estate. Cabinet Wells 3 also serves part of Wells. Thus if you are still looking for fibre broadband you need to carry out the standard procedure which I will repeat below. Additionally

some properties which have received broadband via the exchange can now access fibre broadband. Again you will need to follow the procedure to check if you are now fibre enabled. There are some exchange related properties regarding which I hope to have more information for next month's edition.

Enter www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk, use your telephone number, follow the link through to check if you can access fibre; if the answer is yes you will then see how many ISPs (internet service providers) are offering fibre broadband in your area, what packages are available and at what price. You can then decide which provider you prefer and proceed with arrangements. Another website to access for information is <http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/tv-radio/price-comparison>. There is no automatic 'switch'. Everyone rightfully has a choice of whether or not to be fibre enabled and if so which provider to use.

Helping people regain independence:

Norfolk County Council is investing an additional £1.1 million a year in Norfolk First Support (NFS) which will see forty eight additional permanent jobs created in an 'reablement' service. This service is provided free of charge for up to six weeks for adults assessed as being eligible for support. It is intended to help adults regain independence, for example, after a stay in hospital, ill health or injury. Recruitment for 'reablement' support workers is underway and once the positions are filled, the service should be able to support an additional 1,500 people a year.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a healthy 2016

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