

County Councillor Dr Marie Strong
Wells Division (Glaven, Priory, Walsingham Wards)

Contact: I have concerns regarding a new 'phone system; safest to email me if you cannot reach me by 'phone.

Recycling Centre - hazardous waste amnesty 9am and 5pm on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September:

Residents can get rid of unwanted toxic chemicals at seven of NCC's recycling centres. Wood preservatives, bug and weed killers, paint, thinners, varnishes and special cleaning products are among the wide range of household chemicals which will be accepted for free. These are products too dangerous to be tipped down drains and cannot be put in regular waste bins because they can damage the environment and need to be dealt with using specialist disposal processes. Sites include Hempton, Helhoughton Rd, Fakenham, NR21 7DY.

Composting: Not such a 'time-sensitive' item as the amnesty week-end. Since more and more people are taking gardening seriously and there is an increase in renting allotments here is a link to the NCC latest Master Composter newsletter [Norfolk Master Composter newsletter July - September 2016](#).

Adults at Risk of Abuse: On a serious note the number of adults being abused does not abate so I am repeating the following advice: If someone you know is being abused call NCC Adult Social Services on 0344 800 8020 (24 hours a day); text 07767 647670; email SCCE@norfolk.gov.uk; online.norfolk.gov.uk/socialcareenquiry. Leaflets are available in the library. (You can also use these contacts if you are worried about a child). For more information see www.norfolk.gov.uk/speakup. In an emergency call the police on 999.

Devolution for Norfolk and Suffolk: Unfortunately I have to confirm press coverage that the devolution process continues to become more and more confusing. The briefest and simplest statement I can make is that Norfolk County Councillors across the political spectrum have given strong support to devolving powers down from government but have no enthusiasm for setting up an additional tier of local government with a mayor. However I am confident that when NCC has its final debate on devolution councillors will give serious consideration to the outcome of the consultation together with views expressed at town and parish council meetings and by individuals across our urban and rural divisions. The EDP has referred to how the voting system for a mayor might give Suffolk superior power. I am also confident that councillors, elected to represent the people of Norfolk will demonstrate due diligence before casting a vote on a mayoral combined authority for Norfolk and Suffolk.

Hi-tech Access to Library Services: Just to impress 'techie' readers I offer the latest tool service from NCC's library service which has launched Spydus Mobile, a free app that residents can download onto their smartphone or tablet to access library services and manage their membership at any time 'on the move'.

The app allows users to search for books, place holds on interesting items, download e-books and e-audio books, keep track of their library account and manage their loans. Even those who are not library members can use Spydus Mobile to scan barcodes on books, CDs, DVDs and other items, using their device's camera while they are out and about, and search for available copies at their local library. To download Spydus Mobile for Apple and Android devices visit the App Store or Google Play and select Norfolk Library and Information Service.

Buses: I know it is distressing when let down by public transport and I also understand the belief that all buses come under the authority of the county council. However the county has no say regarding services commercially operated and receiving no subsidy from the council. This is the case with the Coasthopper and the X8 between Fakenham and King's Lynn. Complaints and enquiries need to go direct to Stagecoach: 01553 818563/www.stagecoachbus.com. If you have made a complaint, providing specific dates and times, but have not received a satisfactory response I will forward the details to a member of NCC travel and transport section. But please remember you need precise details for any complaint made. I have to add companies running 'commercial' services can change their timetables whenever they wish and do not have to consult with the local authority. However concerns direct to such companies have on occasion achieved a useful outcome.

All good wishes

Marie Strong