

County Councillor Dr Marie Strong

Wells Division (Glaven, Priory, Walsingham Wards)

Dementia Friendly Wells:

The meeting on 24 May was the best I have been asked to chair in a long time. The aim to promote Wells as the first dementia friendly tourist town filled the meeting room at the Community Hospital with people from across the broadest spectrum of Wells - each and everyone adding to what is a wonderful jigsaw of people willing to commit to the project of Wells moving forward to become dementia friendly for residents and now for visitors.

It is a subject that needs to be talked about openly - at the moment whilst the Alzheimer's society say dementia is the most feared illness of our times people delay for a year or more before asking for a diagnosis. A year in which they and their loved ones could be given help and also importantly that some could be reassured it is not happening to them and that they could stop worrying needlessly.

Well it was certainly talked about on the 24th by the members of the year old Wells Dementia Friendly Group, by Age UK Norfolk, by representatives of the day care centre, community hospital, town council, district council, police, fire service, Holkham estate, library, health centre, churches together, schools, local businesses, coastal community group and more. And from that meeting enough volunteers to fill two more workshops – more organisations who will be able to announce they are dementia friendly.

Cranmer House: The services provided at Cranmer House Fakenham are much appreciated and change that is taking place is understandably causing concern. For detailed information as to these changes go to:

<http://www.northnorfolkccg.nhs.uk/> and I would encourage anyone with views to express them on: nncg.contactus@nhs.net or write to: North Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group, 1 Mill Close, Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6LZ. In addition the health and social care commissioners will be asking for the views and comments from local people and other interested parties.

Syrian Refugees:

A paper on the situation in relation to Norfolk can be found on the county council website for the Policy and Resources Committee. Following the committee meeting on 31 May the item will now be discussed at full Council on 25 July.

Devolution:

The latest update received 31 May is as follows:

At the Council meeting on 27 June 2016 the proposal for devolution to Norfolk and Suffolk - developed from the East Anglia Devolution Deal signed by Government and the Leaders at the time of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be considered by full council – together

with the proposed governance arrangements. With the council's consent, the Scheme will then be published for public consultation.

The results of the public consultation would then be reported at the end of August and, in accordance with the legislative process would be passed to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The Secretary of State would then draft an Order which would come back to the Council for decision at the October Council meeting.

You can find out more detail on the devolution website which includes comprehensive FAQs about the deal and which are regularly updated: www.eastangliadevo.co.uk

Parish Partnership: This is the scheme whereby a town or parish council puts forward an application for a project, say a SAM2 speed warning system, and the county matches the funding. The 16/17 schemes were approved by the Environment Development and Transport Committee in March so delivery is now underway. However this successful scheme continues and letters inviting bids for 17/18 will be issued in June with a bid deadline of December, followed by assessment and Committee approval next March. Councils can get their thinking caps on but there will also be suggestions in the letter as to favoured projects.