

News from County Councillor Dr Marie Strong  
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Dear Councillors

I typed the following hours before we moved to Tier 4 and as usual I have copied below websites which I am assured are updated regularly – this means that whatever changes come into play you can check out the latest which is happening where we live and your where your family and friends live.

**As to why tier 4:** Louise Smith, Director of Public Health in Norfolk said 'What is really clear, over the last six or seven days the numbers have really taken off and are now rising very quickly. "It may be the new variant and we think now just after half of the cases are the new variant but it's also worth remembering that all our predictions and scenarios did predict we were in for a tough winter and unfortunately this does look the direction in which we are heading. When we look at the data by district area we are seeing the numbers rise in every district.'

Below I have also copied information as to what is available for people struggling to cope with lock down and other Covid related problems. The good news is that there is a range of assistance that is available and if appropriate please share the information.

But first enjoy confirmation of the following good news:

**Quay Footways and Pedestrian Crossings:** Good news particularly for those pedestrians who during the summer months have felt they are risking life and limb in simply trying to cross the road. The long promised widening of the footway along the quay and 3 (yes 3) official crossing places along the quay is scheduled to commence on 6 January, taking some 8 weeks to complete. The required diversion has been shared with all the official users. If for whatever reason there is a delay we can be assured the money for the project is as promised and the work will take place.

**COVID-19 Information:** Information on the national tiers is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

[www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus): this site includes local services as well as the latest regulations for Norfolk and reference to many if not all of the government schemes

[www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus): all the government schemes are to be found on this site  
[www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus); separate site if required but linked with the government site.

**Support for Families:** A reminder that Norfolk County Council has developed a package of support to help families over the winter months. For information and advice go to [www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus) or call 0344 800 8020. Please share this information and the following:

**Free school meals:** check if your children are eligible: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>.

**Extension of Norfolk Assistance Scheme:** provides support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items. Visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/NAS](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/NAS) or if no internet call 01603 223392 (option 5) (you can leave a message if the line is busy).

**Power Cuts** - Call 105 free of charge to report power cuts and damage to the electricity network, or 0800 3163 105 (from a corded landline phone or mobile phone). Also visit the following sites: [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk) for the latest updates (on a mobile phone), [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut) type in your postcode to view the live power cut map and Tweet @ukpowernetworks to report power cuts or to receive updates.

**Roadworks:** Up-to-date information about roadworks in Norfolk is available on the County Council website at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/roadworks](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roadworks)

**Avian Influenza:** Measures regarding Avian Influenza were enhanced at least twice over the past weeks. For update information go to: [www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#latest-situation](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#latest-situation)

**Christmas Lights:** For the first time ever I persuaded Mike (spouse) to retrieve our Christmas lights from the loft in time to switch on for 1 December. We hope passers by were cheered by our lights as we were by others on dull and wet nights. I am hoping to leave our lights on until Easter - watch this space.

Warm wishes to you all.

## **Marie**

County Cllr Dr Marie Strong

Wells Division

*Barshams & Houghton St Giles, Binham with Cockthorpe, Blakeney, Brinton with Sharrington, Field Dalling & Saxlingham, Glandford with Letheringsett, Great Snoring, Great & Little Walsingham, Hindringham, Holkham, Langham, Morston, Sculthorpe, Stiffkey, Stody with Hunworth, Thornage & Little Thornage, Warham, Wells-next-the-Sea, Wighton, Wiveton*