

Member of Norfolk County Council (NCC) for **Henstead** Division
Parish areas within the Division: **Bixley, Bramerton, Caistor St Edmund, Framingham Earl, Framingham Pigot, Kirby Bedon, Poringland, Stoke Holy Cross, Surlingham, Trowse with Newton**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S NEWSLETTER 1st September 2016.
CURRENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

1. On return from the August holiday month the County Council will be wrestling with the challenges brought about by referendum decision to leave the EU, particularly the associated loss of grants and funding, a new Government with a new policy direction, Norfolk & Suffolk devolution proposals , and what might emerge in the Government's Autumn Statement. In addition the County Council's budgets are overspent particularly in Children's and Adult's social care services.
2. Students at Norfolk Schools are to be congratulated on their recent "A" Level and GCSE results. All the results are as notified to individual schools. For a true national and county wide comparison we will have to wait until the full analysis is done by the government in the autumn. Meanwhile for Norfolk Schools provisional results for "A" Level, A*- C grade was achieved by 74% per entry in all subjects. For GCSE it was 61% per entry in both Maths & English. For our local high school, Framingham Earl, the rate of success in GCSE A*-C grades was 74% putting it among the best in the county. So well done! Finally Key Stage 2 results in reading, writing and maths for the final year in Norfolk Primary Schools came out at 49%, a big improvement on 2015 in national rankings.
3. The Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) programme was completed ahead of schedule in September 2015, having given 186,000 extra Norfolk premises access to high-speed broadband. An extension to the programme is now underway, which will make better broadband available to even more Norfolk premises and contribute to the national target of making superfast broadband available to 95% of the UK by the end of 2017. Norfolk residents can keep up to date about the programme on the BBfN website.
4. Norfolk Trails will be coordinating two walking and cycling festivals this year. The first will take place in this autumn, starting on 22nd October until 30th October. Events will be held on the National Trails (the Peddars Way and the Norfolk Coast Path) to mark the 30th anniversary of the National Trails in Norfolk, and will also celebrate the opening of the newest section of the Coast Path between Sea Palling and Hopton-on-Sea. Many other events will be taking place around the county such as Norwich and Great Yarmouth. Further information about the festival, event listings and booking details are available at www.norfolkwalkingfestival.co.uk. A downloadable pdf itinerary of events will be available soon.
5. The Norfolk Library Service will be concluding its highly successful summer reading challenge for young people soon with medal presentations, the one at Poringland Library being on 8th September at 4:30pm.

6. The causes of flooding at the entrance to Framingham Earl High School have been investigated by the local highway engineer and will be announced soon.
7. Work has started on £50,000 resurfacing of the inbound carriage way of the A146 beneath the A47 Southern Bypass Flyover and should be concluded by the start of next week. Also I am hopeful of getting the vegetation cut back at the junction of the A47 Norwich east bound slip road and the A146 Trowse bypass as visibility is severely obstructed at that point, especially when a driver misjudges the traffic signals at that point.
8. Hopefully the long saga of the bridge repair and reopening of the road under the London Main Railway Bridge at Long John Hill, Norwich will be over soon. The new Bridge was installed over the August Bank Holiday weekend, and hopefully the road underneath it will be re-opened by the end of September.
9. Norfolk County Council has decided it should take part in the [Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme](#). This is part of a government scheme to accept up to 20,000 refugees over the next five years. It is estimated that around 30% of such refugees will have high needs. The scheme will not accept people who have crossed into Europe. Norfolk is expected to take in family groups totalling about 50 persons in all. It is unclear when they will arrive. Separately it is looking to participate in another government scheme to take in as children in care a number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children already in this country, mainly in Kent.
10. The new Norfolk Police Beat Manager based at Poringland Police Station is PC Tom Harvey. His direct dial phone voicemail number is 01603 276 207.
11. The Bus Service No 85 Surlingham to Norwich via Rockland, Bramerton and Kirby Bedon has a new timetable and operator starting this week. The service has moved back to Anglian Bus and includes an extra service leaving Norwich at 11am and returning there at 11:52. Unfortunately the published timetable for the Norwich bound service contains errors which are being corrected.
12. A Norfolk Library Service Festival of Storytelling will run between 24 September and 9 October, with events in every library, including the mobile library service. The Festival will include a wide variety of performances for children, schools, families and adults. Stories from traditional fables to pirate adventures, Norfolk yarns to fairy tales will be told. There will also be related events such as the Bounce and Rhyme for toddlers and Shared Reading for adults to encourage people in their love of reading. Ask about the festival at Poringland Library.
13. The annual Ketteringham NR9 3AZ Household Hazardous Waste "Amnesty" is arranged for 10-11 September 9am to 5pm. Go early to avoid the queue!
14. Planning permission (2016/1324) has been granted by South Norfolk Council for a distribution centre for "Mattressman" at the old factory site on Stoke Road, Arminghall, favouring employment opportunities of the site over the County Highway's road network objections.