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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 18th APRIL 2017

CURRENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

1. Residents should by now have received a copy of the Norfolk County Council's ["Your Norfolk" magazine Spring 2017](#) giving service updates.
2. Norfolk County Council has taken "decisive action" to speed up improvements in Children's Social Care Services, according to inspectors. In their most [recent monitoring letter, Ofsted](#) highlighted improvements in leadership and performance management and said the council had "wasted no time" in acting on the key messages from the previous monitoring visit. The letter followed a two-day visit at the beginning of March – part of ongoing monitoring of social care services for children and young people in the county. Inspectors highlighted several significant areas of improvement, including in support for foster carers and for those leaving care. Inspectors also noted the good morale of staff.
3. New signs have recently been installed for a [new 50mph limit](#) along the A146 Trowse bypass. In the last 5 years 30 personal injury accidents (2 serious and 28 slight) have been recorded on the 70mph section of the A146 Trowse bypass so the speed limit has been cut. The new speed limit will bring this junction in line with other dual carriageway approaches to Norwich such as the one at Cringleford. New traffic signals that "talk" to each other to help smooth traffic flow were installed last year. The capacity of the B1332 "stacking lane" for traffic destined for Poringland might be increased through road widening at that point of the bypass if funding permits. Finally vegetation obscuring view on the slip road coming off the east bound A47 Southern Bypass destined for Norwich via the Trowse Bypass has recently been cut back to improve visibility.
4. Funding of £370,362 for [136 small scale highway projects](#) across Norfolk has been approved through Norfolk County Council's popular Parish Partnership scheme. The money will be matched by parish and town councils across Norfolk. The Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership (SafeCam) has again agreed to contribute £80,000 towards SAM2 bids in 2017/18. In our area Trowse Parish Council secured £3,300 for a SAM2 machine

5. Three years ago, Norfolk County Council launched a programme to help schools drive up their Ofsted ratings. Since then, the percentage of good or outstanding schools in Norfolk has risen from 63% to hit the national average of 89%. [Norfolk Better to Best](#) (NB2B), 'an approach to self-improvement', has been heralded a huge success and on April 1 control of it was handed over to the member schools themselves when it became a new not-for-profit company, believed to be the first move of its kind in the country.
6. With funds of £20,000 available, the Norfolk Youth Parliament has opened [the Norfolk Youth Fund](#) for applications. Charitable organisations and community groups in Norfolk who involve young people have the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £2000. In 2015, members of Norfolk Youth Parliament (MYPs) asked the young people of Norfolk to take part in the annual Make Your Mark consultation. 17,000 people participated and young people overwhelmingly told us that the top issues were mental health education and developing skills to help prepare young people for life. Projects for tackling these issues are invited.
7. The 7.6km pumped connecting waste water sewer from Poringland to Whitlingham Water Recycling Centre is currently being constructed, mostly across open country. Hedgerows removed for this scheme will be replaced. Given the growth in housing numbers in the Poringland/Framingham Earl area, extra sewer capacity away from the current treatment works off Dove Lane, Poringland is essential. Meanwhile the scheme to replace fresh water mains in the area continues with Arminghall Lane and a footpath in Kirby Bedon currently closed.
8. An application [Y/7/2017/7006] for a 2 classbase extension, including new cycle shelter and associated works and change of use of a former caretaker's bungalow to educational use has recently been made in respect of Poringland Primary School & Nursey. It is fully funded by a developer contribution.
9. **Following the County Council elections on 4th May**, I will cease to be your local County Councillor. It has been a joy and a privilege to have represented the community in regard to both local and county-wide issues for the last eight years. My reward has been to meet hosts of amazing people who work for the benefit of the community either as residents, volunteers, paid employees, and fellow councillors whether at the County Council, the District Council and at the various Parish Councils in my Division. As my County Council e-mail will be "turned off" after 8th May, if you need to reach me over any handover matter, it would be best to use Royal Mail or the telephone! [Details above]