

County Councillor Report September 26

Many residents in rural villages have said they really need better bus services. I've been speaking with NCC to see if anything can be done to improve this: NCC's role is plugging the gaps where services are not economic, and there is a small budget for that. To that end, we've created a very simple survey – link below - to see where people need to get to from villages which have no or very limited public transport. The responses will help shape any future changes. [Public Transport Survey – Fill in form](#). There's also a word version for those who aren't digitally enabled (attached). Please let me know if you would like me to drop off paper copies. To get these back, probably the easiest way is for residents (or a friend) to take a photo on their mobile and email to me at victoria.holliday.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk.

Officers at NCC have agreed to host a Teams webinar with parishes to discuss what projects are in place at NCC to improve broadband speed and mobile connectivity. They will also touch on their digital inclusion work as well. This will hopefully be scheduled for October. I'll let you know the date.

The Parish Partnership Scheme is back! The County Council has provisionally allocated £500,000 on a 50/50 basis. The closing date for submissions will be 01 December 2026, decisions will be made in March 2027, and any schemes will need to be delivered on the ground by the end of December 2027. Therefore, we would ask that parishes supply their funding by end of April 2027 to prevent lapse of grant. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Norfolk County Council is still only accepting unwanted fridges, freezers and other cooling appliances at the county's largest recycling centres, due to a national shortage of processing sites. Hempton is our closest.

If parishioners have any support needs, or need help navigating the care system, the next dates for the social worker at Heritage House, Wells are 5th and 20th October, and at Glaven Caring, Blakeney, 2nd and 13th October, and 6th and 17th November. No appointment is needed.

I'll be holding a surgery at Wells Library 11-noon Friday 9th October and 13th November, where I'll be happy to answer questions or see if I can help at all with Norfolk County Council matters.

The Government has published a revised [National Planning Policy Framework](#), effective immediately. The revised framework introduces a stronger presumption in favour of sustainable development and increases the weight of national policy in planning decisions. For Norfolk, a key issue is to ensure that increases in housing delivery are matched by timely investment in infrastructure and local services.

The Camera Safety Team Manager has been out and about in our division collecting speeding data and non-compliance with speed limits. I sent round the findings. She has found a couple of sites for enforcement and one to liaise with the police. If you would like me to ask her to monitor any sites in your village that haven't been done, please let me know.