

October Report

Public Health

October sees the launch of the national Stoptober campaign to encourage people to stop smoking to improve their health. If people stop smoking for a month, they are five times likely to quit for good. This year's theme is 'Let's quit together'.

Hazardous household waste

Residents can dispose of hazardous materials eg. Paint, flammable materials, pesticides, etc. at the following recycling centres on:

Norwich South - October 3rd & 4th, Dereham October 31st & 1st November. Norwich North November 28th & 29th.

Bookings to take these to the recycling centres open one week before each event and can be made on line or by phone.

Walking aids

A partnership between NCC, HM Prison and Probation Service and NORSE Environmental Waste Services has been nominated for a National Recycling Award. The scheme allows people who have old walking aids that they no longer use to take them to a recycling centre which then passes them on to HMP Prison Norwich where prisoners clean and refurbish them before giving them to the NHS to be used by patients. There is no need to book an appointment as the old walking aids can be left at the re-use shops which are based at the recycling centres.

Highways Rangers

I recently forwarded a poster to Parish Councils which showed the Rangers are available to respond to requests for help with Highways issues.

Tree planting

NCC is still working towards planting one million trees in Norfolk. The subsidised tree scheme is open to everyone, individuals, Parish Councils, Community Groups, businesses, schools and landowners. It provides trees and protection materials at up to 50% off the original price. A limited number of taller trees eg. beech, oak and birch, grown at Gressenhall Tree nursery are also available. For more information: www.norfolk.gov.uk/milliontrees

Local Government Reform

On September 26th all Districts and the County Council submitted proposals for Local government Reform. NCC proposed one unitary council, South Norfolk proposed two unitaries and the other six District Councils proposed three unitaries. The government will consider these proposals, consult the general public then make a decision as to which is the most suitable for Norfolk in the New Year. The same procedure is being carried out in Suffolk.

Devolution

On October 2nd Suffolk County Council agreed to proceed with the Devolution proposal that Suffolk and Norfolk become a Combined Authority led by a Mayor who will be elected in May 2026. NCC will discuss this proposal on October 16th then if agreed the Cabinet will submit a business case for this to the Government. Both councils must agree to this for it to go ahead.

Margaret

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships
Norfolk County Council: Hingham Division
South Norfolk Council: Easton Ward