

Work in Progress

I am currently chasing various Highways problems: the village gates which have never arrived for Fornsett, the misplaced lorry signs for Tabernacle Lane, the request for a vehicle-activated sign in Burston, speeding and road condition problems on Upgate Street. I met up with Adam Mayo in early September to look at some of the places that are particularly problematic.

I'm checking in with the officer who is in charge of the Norfolk County Council energy plan, to see what we can do about the future plans for onshoring power from new windfarms off the Norfolk coast. I am trying to set up a meeting for two of us from the Green Group to get a sense of whether they have a good idea how to deliver the grid upgrades needed in a future proof way without destroying everything in the process, and to ensure that demand-reduction is on the agenda and not just increasing supply.

I'm working with residents on a number of issues where feelings are running high due to concerns about planning permission and licensing in particular places. These are mainly district council issues, but where they impinge on County Council responsibilities I have been able to raise queries with the officers concerned. I am also trying to find out who can explain the absence of wild flowers on the A140 roundabout at Tivetshall to see if we can have flowers there too.

County Council:

Infrastructure & Development committee meets on 11th September and includes work on the climate action plan, economic strategy, local transport plan and county tree policy. Full Council meets on 24th September.

Info from Norfolk police and crime commissioner, Sarah Taylor

The new Norfolk police and crime commissioner is holding some surgeries to give you the chance to help shape Norfolk's policing and crime priorities over the period from 2025 to 2029.

She is proposing ten core priorities: Focus on Prevention, Restoring Trust and Confidence in Policing across Norfolk, Improving Road Safety, Tackling Extremism and Community Tensions, Making Norfolk Streets Safer, Effective Criminal Justice System, Support for Victims, Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Improving Rural Response, Tackling organised Crime and Criminal Exploitation.

Sarah will be at

- The Millennium Library Norwich from 10.00am until 4pm on Saturday, 14th September,
- Diss Corn Hall on Monday 16th September from 5.30 pm to 8 pm.

Why not pop along to say hello and let her know that we need safer speeds on rural roads around here! Alternatively, you can share your views by taking the short online survey at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NorfolkPCP2025/> Closing date Friday 1 November 2024.

Info from Norfolk County Council

House fires caused by e-bike and e-scooter batteries charging at night

It's important to buy lithium-ion batteries only from reputable and safe retailers, to ensure they meet UK safety standards and aren't a fire risk.

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service and Norfolk County Council's Trading Standards team are investigating a house fire in Bowthorpe which is believed to have been started by a battery purchased from an online retailer, which was charging indoors. This is just one of an epidemic of

such house fires across the UK with devastating consequences, deaths, serious burns and massive losses of property and housing.

Find out more about how to stay safe with lithium batteries.

Read more about the Lithium-ion battery safety bill.

Long Stratton Bypass

Along with other members of the Long Stratton Bypass board, I visited the site at Long Stratton in July to see how it is progressing.

The main construction began in late May. They estimate it will cost around £46.9m. Funding is coming from The Department for Transport, a £14.5m commitment from the Greater Norwich Growth Board, and the local developer. They expect it to be complete by late 2025.

National government news

Household support fund extended by 6 months

The government has extended the Household Support Fund for another 6 months.

The money will help Councils to support the most vulnerable who are struggling with household bill costs, such as food and energy. This is especially important for the most vulnerable people who tend to fall through the gaps of other support schemes.

Contact me on

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Catherine Rowett

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