



# Norfolk County Council

## Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 27 October 2022

This weekly briefing is intended as a resource to keep you up to date with the latest information and advice.

### COVID-19 Trusted sources of information

The most recent **verified data on cases in the UK and Norfolk** is available from [Public Health England](#) and [Norfolk Insights](#).

Everyone has a key role in promoting [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) and [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) as trusted sources of information to the public. It is important to ensure people go to the right sources of information and keep up to date with how to look after themselves.

**Keep up to date:** We have [a dedicated webpage for coronavirus updates](#) in Norfolk and impact on Norfolk County Council services. This is updated regularly so please do re-visit this page.

**Service updates:** The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#).

### UK Commission on Covid Commemoration

#### Covid Commemoration Consultation

The UK Commission on Covid Commemoration has launched a consultation giving people across the UK the opportunity to say how they think the pandemic should be remembered and with possible suggestions including the adoption of a Remembrance Sunday-style symbol, dedicated memorials and reflective spaces.

The Commission is also seeking suggestions on suitable dates to hold a national day of remembrance and views on how future generations should be educated about the sacrifices made throughout the pandemic, as well as marking key achievements such as the development of the vaccines and the valuable contribution made by volunteers.

The public consultation will close on 5 December 2022.

The Commission will report its recommendations to the Prime Minister by the end of March 2023.

Further details and a link to the consultation [here](#).

## **Avian Flu**

### **Avian Influenza latest situation**

Further to the previous update, the number of confirmed outbreaks of Avian Influenza in Norfolk has risen rapidly. There have now been 47 outbreaks confirmed in Norfolk since 21 August 2022. When an outbreak is declared, zones are created surrounding the premises that impose legal requirements and restrictions upon birdkeepers within those areas. It is Trading Standards' responsibility to ensure that the requirements of these zones, and any Prevention Zones (mentioned below), are complied with.

A regional Avian Influenza Prevention Zone also remains in place in Norfolk, Suffolk, and parts of Essex, and applies to everyone who keeps poultry or captive birds. The Prevention Zone requires bird keepers to follow biosecurity measures. As a result of the increased incidence of outbreaks a mandatory housing order has also been introduced within this Prevention Zone area, requiring keepers to keep their birds indoors.

Information regarding the latest situation on Avian Influenza, including full details of the current cases in Norfolk, and the Prevention Zone requirements, can be found [here](#).

Please share this information with anybody you know that keeps poultry and encourage them to register with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) poultry register.

If you have 50 or more birds, you are legally required to register but you can choose to register voluntarily if you have less than that. By doing so you will be kept informed on the latest bird flu information so you can take action to reduce the risk to your birds, which in turn reduces the risk to all UK poultry. It's quick and easy to register [here](#).

### **Advice for the public**

The UK Health Security Agency has said that avian influenza is primarily a disease of birds and the risk to the general public's health is very low.

The Food Standards Agency has said that avian influenza poses a very low food safety risk, and that properly cooked poultry and poultry products, such as eggs, are safe to eat.

The public are advised to keep to designated footpaths, not to feed wild birds, and keep dogs on leads. Don't touch sick or dead birds, their feathers, or their droppings. If you see a dead bird, please report it to Defra's helpline on 03459 335577. Sick birds should be reported to the RSPCA (0300 1234 999) who may be able to help.

## **Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation**

As in previous years the council will be consulting Norfolk residents and stakeholders on council tax and budget proposals as part of the budget setting process.

Norfolk County Council will set a new budget on 21st February 2023. Ahead of this, they will be asking for views on the proposed council tax level for 2023-24, including a proposal for the adult social care precept. As a part of this work, they will also be consulting on a number of changes to services to contribute to our reduction in spending as a council.

You can have your say at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget) and paper copies of the consultation can be requested via email at [haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk)

Members' involvement in promoting the consultation and encouraging residents to feed back their views is an important part of the consultation plan.

Members are encouraged to use their own local knowledge and online connections to involve communities and constituents in the process and to feed back their views. Ideally this should be completed via online forums or via socially distanced meetings within community settings.

If you receive direct feedback on the proposals, please can you:

- Forward any emails to [haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk)
- Post copies of any letters you receive to the Consultation Team, Ground floor – south wing at County Hall, these will be scanned in and shared via email while we continue to work in a hybrid environment
- Post any petitions to Caroline Clarke, at Democratic Services
- Encourage people who give you feedback in person to pass their views on directly using the online form at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget) or by emailing [haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk)

The consultation will run from 21 October to 16 December 2022. Findings will be considered by the Cabinet on 30 January, before the full council finalises the budget on 21 February 2023.

## **Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS)**

**Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service are reminding residents to make Halloween a treat this year by not being tricked by fire hazards.**

There are many ways to enjoy Halloween safely and this year, NFRS would like to remind residents of some useful fire safety tips to keep your family safe.

If you are planning to decorate your home with jack o' lanterns on the night, consider replacing the candles with battery operated tea lights. Over 300 people are injured by candle flames in the UK each year and unattended candles are a common cause of housefires. Battery operated tea lights carry far less of a fire risk than burning candles. If a lantern is knocked over a fire can quickly spread, something the battery-operated lights will not do: consider making this simple change to keep your home safe.

If a costume that you or anyone is wearing catches fire, remember to stop, drop to the floor, and roll around to smother the flames to put them out. This is the best way to put out a clothing fire and could save you from serious burn injuries.

Many bonfires and firework displays are held in Norfolk over the Halloween and Bonfire Night period. Where possible, always consider attending organised events, managed by trained individuals, rather than hosting your own at home.

Fire crews are ready all year round, so if you do spot a fire please stay a safe distance from the blaze, stay calm and phone 999 and ask for the fire service. Never try and tackle a fire by yourself, the crews are trained professionals and will extinguish the fire safely.

## **NFRS marks International Control Room Week**

This week Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service have been celebrating their Control Room staff as the Service marks International Control Room Week.

- International Control Room Week is run by the founders of Control Room awards. It's a week dedicated to celebrating the unsung heroes of the Control Room and in Norfolk, they have been sharing their appreciation for their brilliant control staff on the Service social media channels. All week the Service has been extending thanks to all those in their Control Room for the brilliant, lifesaving work they do every day and the excellent job they do supporting and dispatching fire crews.

You can learn more about International Control Room Week [here](#).

## **E-scooter trial extended**

Norfolk County Council has agreed to extend the current e-scooter trial in Norwich to 31 May 2024. There will also be an increase in the number of e-scooters available and new bays planned for Hethersett and Drayton.

Initially launched as a bike share scheme, a fleet of 100 e-scooters were added to Norwich in September 2020 as part of the Department for Transport's (DfT) pilot. Since they arrived there have been more than 368,000 e-scooter journeys travelling more than 1,155,00km.

Feedback from over 4000 journeys tells us that on average 32% of journeys have replaced either a car, taxi or motorbike. According to industry calculations, this has saved almost 49 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, the equivalent of 284 flights from London to Edinburgh.