

Barry Stone - County Councillor for Clavering Parish Council Report – August 2021



Mobile Library Service.

The current routes in Clavering Division are :

CEN320 CEN323 CEN513 CEN423

For timetable details please visit this link below and find Mobile libraries under the heading Your local libraries.

Customers can come in and:-

- Browse the shelves
- Pick up handy Grab and Go bags of books for adults and children that library staff have selected and collect reservations
- Collect a free COVID LFD kit, toiletries or sanitary products.
- Get information and signposting to a wide range of services

To find out more about any of our services the library helpline number is 01603 222267. We continue to offer a range of eBooks and activities online. Please check www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries as well as “What’s On in Norfolk Libraries”.

To help customers we are continuing to renew what they have on loan, automatically.

To keep everyone Covid-safe we ask everyone to bring their library card and we take details for Test and Trace on the way in. Customers also need to wear a face covering, sanitise their hands and follow the one-way layout, observing social distancing. We are constantly reviewing what we can do.

Coming up:

The Summer Reading Challenge, which helps children improve and maintain their reading levels over the summer, launches in July. This year the theme is an environmental one called “Wild World Heroes”.

Covid-19 Trusted sources of information

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

Everyone has a key role in promoting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and 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](#). The council will continue to monitor its services and, if regulations and circumstances change, it will review its current plans.

Rural Broadband:

Two million rural homes are set to benefit from a [£5 billion funding package](#) to improve broadband in areas with slow speeds.

The Government's Project Gigabit fund will see up to 1,850,000 additional premises across 26 English counties get access to gigabit speed internet of 1,000 megabits per second – enough to download a HD movie in less than 30 seconds. It brings the current total number of premises in scope for Government-funded coverage to 2.2 million.

Norfolk is one of the first counties listed by Government to receive funding, and will receive between £115 million and £195 million.

Flexi Apprenticeships:

Sectors including the creative, agriculture and construction industries can now bid for [a share of a £7 million fund](#) to support the creation of new flexible apprenticeships, unlocking more opportunities for people to develop the skills they need to get good jobs.

The fund will establish a small number of agencies that will set up new flexi-job apprenticeships so an apprentice can work across a range of projects and with different employers to gain the knowledge, skills and behaviours they need to be occupationally competent.

Vaccinations for 16-17 year olds:

UK experts have [recommended that all 16 and 17 year olds should be offered a covid vaccine](#), following the JCVI previously delaying the move last month while it assessed the risks.

The JCVI has determined that due to the spread of Covid-19 amongst younger age groups and the low risk of side effects from the vaccine means that vaccines should be offered to 16 and 17 year olds.

It is expected that a first dose will provide around 80% protection from Covid-19 in younger people, with this number likely to be higher due to some having already received a first vaccine.

1/5 of hospital admissions aged 18-34:

The new Chief Executive of NHS England, Amanda Pritchard, has warned that a fifth of hospital admissions are in people aged 18-34, with around 1,000 young adults estimated to be unwell in hospital.

The majority of those in hospital are unvaccinated and have been urged to get their vaccines.

Cashless Payments:

Cashless spending and donations are going to be the norm in a post-Covid world and pioneering Norwich company Thyngs has already developed the technology to support this transition.

Started five years ago by entrepreneur Neil Garner, the business has produced a digital platform which allows people to pay for services or give money to charity without any apps or cash.

Covid stalled their plans to launch a new payment method using existing bank apps, but a [£25,000 Growth Through Innovation Fund grant from New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership](#) supported vital upgrades and continued R&D, which meant it was in even better shape to capitalise on payment trends resulting from the pandemic.

Call for #OneStepGreener Ambassadors:

In November, the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, bringing together over 190 world leaders to agree urgent action to tackle climate change.

In the run-up to COP26, the UK government will be working with 26 #OneStepGreener Ambassadors – citizens who are going above and beyond for the climate. The Ambassadors will become the voice of the UK public on climate change and will work closely with the government in the lead up to COP26.

You can apply or nominate someone to be a #OneStepGreener Ambassador using the application form [available here](#).

As always, I am here to help in any way I can and will always respond to email and telephone requests for assistance.

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Kind regards

Barry