

Norfolk has been ranked 4th out of 28 similar councils in a national independent survey which looks at satisfaction with highways and transport services. The highest scores for our county were for traffic levels and congestion, and the condition of roads and footpaths. These are all things that people consistently say are important to them and in which Norfolk is ranked strongly compared to other councils. One thing that Norfolk hopes to improve upon in future years is street lighting. Work is already underway to improve the street lights in the county with £1.6m being spent on 13,500 new energy efficient LED lights during 2018/19.

Also on Highways following the recent budget allocating more money for potholes and road repairs NCC has been awarded just over £13m from that fund to be used in 2019/20.

Following recent work undertaken by Active Norfolk and our Environment team, British Cycling has confirmed that the 2019 HSBC UK National Road Championships will be hosted in Norfolk. The National Championships are the highlight of the British domestic road calendar and see world class riders competing for national titles across the Road Race and Time Trial disciplines. This will all take place between June 27th and 30th plus a 100 mile mass-participation sportive will take place on Sunday 30th with riders of all abilities able to challenge themselves on the elite course, and benefit from the support of the crowds who will gather to see the country's best riders go head-to-head to claim the national champions' jerseys.

As in previous years NCC will be consulting Norfolk Residents and stakeholders on specific budget savings proposals as part of the council's budget setting process. The consultation will run from November 5th through to December 23rd. All details of the budget will be publicised using social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget and in the Autumn issue of Your Norfolk magazine which is delivered to every household in the County

South Norfolk Council has launched it's annual Business Awards competition to recognise and celebrate the success of our local businesses. The awards build on the very popular Independent retailer awards, widening the scope and focus to reflect the diversity of businesses that flourish in our district. Businesses can nominate themselves for an award and we are asking residents to nominate their favourite business in the 'Retailer of the Year' category. For all details go to www.south-norfolk.gov.uk

I am looking forward to all of the festive events in our town and villages on the run up to Christmas with the Big Christmas Lights Switch-On in Harleston on Saturday 1st December.

May I wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas

Martin