

Census 2021

The census, a survey gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales, will take place on Sunday March 21st 2021. Led by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) Census 2021 is a “digital-first” so people will primarily be encouraged to complete the census online. Norfolk County Council will be supporting the delivery of the census in four main ways.

- Help ONS verify whether the key population groups identified in Norfolk are the right ones and encourage their participation in the census.
- Norfolk Library and Information Service (NLIS) will support residents to complete the census online.
- Promoting the census through our social media channels and other communication outlets.
- Host the Norfolk Census Working Group with representatives from the Districts, ONS and internal colleagues to share plans, coordinate activity and resolve issues.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. For more information, visit census.gov.uk

A new taskforce aiming to strengthen Norfolk's resilience to flooding has been set up, chaired by former head of the British Army Lord Dannatt. Norfolk has suffered from increased floods in recent months, and calls for a coordinated action has grown. With an independent figure guiding round-table discussions of the county and district councils, Anglian Water, The Environment Agency, internal drainage boards, National Farmers Union, and others, it is hoped greater collaboration between the authorities can be fostered. Lord Dannatt who will not be paid for the role, said: “Flooding and tidal surges are an increasing threat to the safety and prosperity of people in Norfolk in the coming years so the time is right to address these challenges vigorously.”

Norfolk has bucked the national trend during the coronavirus pandemic, with an increased number of people pursuing adult learning qualifications. Little over five years ago, NCCs adult learning service was branded inadequate by inspectors. But the service has been turned around and, while the pandemic meant participation in qualification course fell by 19% nationally, in Norfolk it went up by 12%. The service, which has its hub at Wensum Lodge in Norwich, moved all of its learning programmes – taken by 3,000 people – online by April 2020. The pandemic has shown Norfolk's residents to be uniquely resilient in incredibly times.

Families that are struggling with home learning have a new place to turn to for advice and support. Norfolk Libraries has set up a phonenumber which serves as a first stop for parents and carers in the county using new devices to teach their children. The phone line aims to provide a friendly voice to families that aren't familiar with home learning technology, including those that have received a new laptop as a result of NCCs 'Every Child Online' campaign. The campaign is being run by the county council, in partnership with Norfolk Community Foundation backed by the Eastern Daily Press newspaper. It aims to ensure every child has digital device and internet connection to learn remotely at home to make sure they are not left behind in their learning because of digital disadvantage. If anyone needs help using online services, they can speak to a member of library staff on 01603 774777

People can also register for Learn My Way and enter the name of their local library in the 'Centre' box for free online learning. For help downloading eBooks or using other library services online, email libraries.iconnect@norfolk.gov.uk

Best Wishes
Martin