

It's good to see the New Vaccination Centre up and running in Paddock Road Harleston. This saves a lot of travelling for local residents in Harleston and the Waveney valley. Many people who have had their first jab there have told me how good and efficient and well organised the whole set up is. My wife Jenny has had her first jab there and has her date fixed for her second one in May. I had my first jab in Poringland and again it worked like clockwork. A big thank you to everyone involved with this new vaccination centre and a special thanks to all of the volunteers that are helping there.

Roads are to be made safer in 113 places in Norfolk's towns and villages, thanks to a £715,000 boost. Signs urging drivers to slow down, traffic calming, new footpaths, crossings, bus shelters and village gateways will be put in place through Norfolk County Council's parish partnership scheme. The parish partnerships initiative, first launched in September 2011, invites communities to bid for cash for improvements. The new safer entrance into the Co-op car park from Paddock road is a joint parish partnership scheme between the Town Council and NCC. The county council is providing just over £313,000, matching funding by town and parish councils. The safety camera partnership has agreed funding of just under £40,000 for 23 SAM2 signs – mobile units which flash the speed of drivers and encourage them to slow down.

Residents of Norfolk looking for a new challenge and a chance to make a real difference are invited to consider a career as an on-call firefighter to help fill vacancies across the county and protect Norfolk and its people. With more people now based at home, and the last year underlining how communities can really pull together, now is the perfect time to consider if it's for you. Working as an on-call firefighter means being involved in a wide range of activities in your local area, from responding to emergency calls to carrying out work in local communities and supporting their needs, or providing fire prevention advice to help to keep people safe. Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service has produced some new brochures highlighting what's involved so people can find out about the application process. For all information about on-call recruitment go to www.norfolk.gov.uk/oncallfirefighter

The latest situation with regard to the Redenhall bridge on the A143 which was damaged during the recent floods, is that a diving survey has been carried out which has identified severe undermining and scour beneath the upstream eastern abutment and beneath the concrete base slab of the bridge on the upstream side. Until the bridge is repaired, the traffic signals will have to remain in place. The diving company are producing a budget estimate for the work and as soon as we have this the works will start as soon as we can, given the disruption the traffic signals cause.

I am like most people looking forward to the steps for coming out of lockdown, it's good to see the children back at school and the dates at when all shops, pubs and restaurants can re-open for business and we can get back to some sort of normal.

Best Wishes
Martin