



Latest update on events from your County Councillor Tom FitzPatrick

Tattersett Parish Council

21st July 2025

My contact details are:

Email: tom.fitzpatrick.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Phone: 01603 989809

Mobile No: 07803 166293

Norfolk County Council updates

Free exhibition “Unearthed: The Power of Gardening”

A free exhibition “Unearthed: The Power of Gardening” is now at Norfolk Millennium Library.

The exhibition started at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse, then moved to Dereham Library before coming to Norwich.

It emphasises how gardening can bring people together, empower communities, and shape our relationship with the natural world – showcasing the transformative power of gardening and how it can be a force for creativity, resilience and community building. It also considers gardening as a form of activism. The work features collaborations with Black Futures (produced by 'innate creates') and artists from Edible East.

- The exhibition will be at the
- Millenium library until 30 August 2025, then it will move to
- Fakenham Library from 3-27 September 2025.

King’s Lynn Museum – Exhibition now open until early 2026

Last week I attended the opening of an exhibition “May The Toys Be With You” which showcases one of the UK’s finest collections of vintage Star Wars toys and original cinema posters, from 1977-1985. It is a celebration of the now highly collectable vintage toy line and of the iconic design work and art of the Star Wars movies.

The Museum is situated right beside the Bus Station and there is also an adjacent car park.

NHS GP Patient Survey - Norfolk and Waveney results

The [Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care system have reported](#) increased patient satisfaction with GP practices, NHS dental and pharmacy services across Norfolk and Waveney– according to the latest national GP patient survey results.

The Norfolk and Waveney results of the 2025 IPSOS Mori NHS England survey for showed that:

78% of patients had a good overall experience of their GP practice, compared with 77% last year. This is higher than the national average of 75%

87% of patients had a good overall experience of using pharmacy services, compared with 85% last year. The national average is 88%

61% of patients had a good overall experience of local NHS dental services, compared with 56% last year. The national average is 71%

These results are based on the responses of 12,079 patients in the Norfolk and Waveney area who completed a survey.

National Updates

Drought update

The National Drought Group has [said](#) that dry weather continues to impact water resources across England, requiring water companies to take action to manage demand and the public urged to use water wisely.

- Across England, rainfall was 20% less than the long-term average for June, which was also the hottest on record, with two heatwaves driving unusually high demand for water. The West and East Midlands are now officially in drought, and three more areas – including East Anglia – have moved into prolonged dry weather status.
- The National Drought Group is asking the public to think about how they use water at home and in the garden, and to comply with any local restrictions, as the less water you use at home, the more water there is in your local environment.
- A decision to declare drought is taken based on reservoir levels, river flows, groundwater levels, how dry soils are, environmental incidents and water resources position along with consideration of the long-term weather forecasts. These are based on Environment Agency Area classifications. More information on how drought is managed in England can be found [here](#).

Electric Car Grant launched

The government has [launched an Electric Car Grant](#) to support the transition to zero emission vehicles and incentivise sustainable automotive manufacturing.

Car makers can apply for funding from 16 July 2025, subject to [confirmation of vehicle eligibility by the Department for Transport](#). A list of eligible vehicles will be updated on the department website as vehicles are approved. The scheme has funding available until financial year 2028 to 2029. The closure date will remain under review and the scheme will be subject to amendment or early closure, with no notice, should funds become exhausted.

The Electric Car Grant has 2 bands. £3,750 for the most sustainably produced cars and £1,500 for cars that meet some environmental criteria. This is in recognition of the need to address embedded carbon emissions across a vehicle's lifetime, as well as tailpipe emissions. Vehicles that do not meet minimum sustainability standards will not be eligible for a grant.

Once models are approved, the car company will then take the money off the price of the car, so customers will just see a reduced price in dealerships and will not have to do anything themselves to get the discount.

Devolution and Empowerment Bill

On 10 July the Government introduced the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill. A link to the proposed bill and accompanying documents is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-devolution-and-community-empowerment-bill>

The Bill aims to establish a more consistent and simpler model of devolution which can be delivered more quickly than current legislation allows - establishing a standardised framework of devolved powers, duties and functions, reforming the local government sector, and empowering communities.

The Bill is technical in nature. It includes the fundamentals to build upon and formalise the intentions set out in the English Devolution White Paper and to create Strategic Mayoral Authorities. The key areas for devolution of funding and powers are those the Government has previously outlined: transport and local infrastructure, skills and employment, housing and strategic planning, economic development and regeneration, environment and net zero, health, wellbeing and public service reform, public safety.

Some additions in the Bill include:

- A requirement on local authorities to put in place "effective neighbourhood governance".
- A new Community Right to Buy.
- Creation of a new Local Audit Office

New Strategy for elections published

16-year-olds are to be given the right to vote as part of the Government's new policy paper. Details of the Government proposals can be found online at GOV.UK.

The Government says that they have set themselves new tasks

- futureproofing democracy
- securing elections
- upholding our values, and
- protecting elections against interference.

Their stated aim is to reclaim Britain's democracy so that it will be an aspiration for the rest of the world.

Tom FitzPatrick

Chairman of Norfolk County Council

County Councillor for Fakenham Division

(Dunton, Fakenham [Lancaster North and South], Helhoughton, Hempton with Pudding Norton & Testerton, Raynham and Tattersett)