

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch
Report July 2024

Norwich Western Link:

The Norwich Western Link (NWL) is the proposed new 3.8 mile dual carriageway road that would link the newly dualled A47 near Easton to the end of the western end of the Broadland Way, Fakenham Road (A1067) thus effectively creating an outer ring road around Norwich.

The new road would allow better and faster journey times around the city and provide a quicker route to the A140 and north Norfolk. It would also stop “rat running” through the villages immediately to the west of Norwich and remove much of the HGV traffic that currently uses the B1145 through villages such as Brisley, Stanfield, Mileham, Litcham and Lexham.

There is strong opposition to the project on environmental grounds, but it remains a top priority for NCC. The economic benefits and advertising that Norfolk is open for outside investment in jobs is seen as justified with mitigation measures put in place to prevent harm to wildlife and the environment.

[View, or comment on, the Norwich Western Link planning application FUL/2024/0022.](#)

A hard copy of the application is also available for inspection by appointment at county hall. To book an appointment email nwlplanning@norfolk.gov.uk or phone 0344 800 8020.

Parish Partnership Scheme:

You will have received (or will soon) details of this years Parish Partnership scheme to help fund small scale highway improvements in your parish. Of note this year is that any parish with a precept of less than £2k will be eligible to receive 75% of the cost of any scheme up to the value of £5k. This offer is available once per parish. Please contact me of the highway team to discuss any proposed scheme and to obtain a quote on the cost. Applications close on the 6th December.

Devolution:

NCC agreed, in principle, with the previous government to a devolution deal which would see government grants given to Norfolk to fund various schemes. The deal was conditional on the election of a leader, separate from the 84 members, to oversee the spending of the government money.

On Tuesday 23rd July Council will debate the changes to the Council's constitution required for the election of the leader to take place and for that person to take office for 4 years from 1st May next year. There is now some uncertainty as to whether the new government will honour the current deal so the decision before the Council on Tuesday may be deferred. The constitution will require amendment by December to allow the changes outlined above to be implemented.

The current best guess is that devolution will be at a regional level with several counties being placed together to form a "combined authority" with an elected mayor directing government money to infrastructure and housing projects.

Mark Kiddle-Morris. 8th July.