

Focus on



King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Your councils working together
in your community...

Brighter smile for Sunny Hunny

Sunny Hunny has been wearing an even brighter smile this summer, thanks to a major effort to spruce up the town, led by the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, the Town Council, and the Hunstanton in Bloom Committee (including the Civic Society, Hunstanton Businesses and the Accommodation Association).

As well as preparing the town for the World Water Ski Racing Championships in June and entry into Anglia in Bloom, the improvements are part of a longer-term plan to improve the presentation of the town for residents and visitors.

The town has been dressed with more colourful flower displays than ever before, street furniture has been painted, shelters and chalets refurbished, trees planted, ramps built and chewing gum removed.

To maintain the improvements, the Borough Council has invested in state of the art street cleaning and grass cutting equipment.

It has also given the town a full-



time maintenance man - paid for by deleting a management post - who turns his hand to almost any minor repair, cutting through the paperwork to put things right fast.

The installation of CCTV, with a major contribution from the Town Council, means that a closer watch can be kept on Hunstanton's

cleaner and brighter streets and walkways. The police are already reporting a reduction in crime thanks to the cameras.



Norfolk County Council

Alcohol & crime West Norfolk takes the lead

Police, County and Borough councils and other public agencies have joined forces in West Norfolk in another initiative aimed at reducing alcohol-related crime and disorder by making sure that licensed premises are run responsibly.

The checks in and around King's Lynn mean that pubs and clubs can expect unannounced visits from the police, officers from County Council's Fire and Trading Standards services, Borough Environmental Health and Licensing officers, and representatives from HM Revenue & Customs and the Benefits Agency.

Together the agencies look at issues including noise, litter, fire safety, drunkenness, under-age drinking, quality of products and benefit fraud. The aim is to ensure that premises are run in a responsible way, are safe for customers and considerate to neighbours.

After being launched in King's Lynn, there are plans to extend the programme of checks to pubs across the rest of West Norfolk and into Breckland.

This new initiative builds upon the success of the King's Lynn town centre Dispersal Order, launched jointly by Norfolk Constabulary and Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

Clued up & active

'There's nothing else to do!'
How often have parents heard that refrain from the children as they try to prise them away from the TV, computer or games console?

Before the start of the long summer holidays, over 800 young people in three west Norfolk county high schools - St Clements, The Park and Methwold - were given fresh ideas for the weeks ahead - and for their longer-term futures. The 'Make it Real' partnership roadshows, organised by the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, gave youngsters challenges, personal safety information, ideas and a passport listing a whole range of summer activities - with the chance of a £100 shopping spree for taking part in three or more.



Oakes Court opens its doors

Eighteen months after moving into residential care, 93-year-old Sue Cummings has her own front door once again - in Norfolk's latest housing with care scheme.

Oakes Court, in Downham Market, has been developed by Norfolk County Council, Broadland Housing Association and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk. Housing with care offers residents the chance to live independent and active lives, but with a full range of community facilities and the security of knowing that Norfolk County Council Adult Social Services is on hand to provide care when needed.

Chris Mowle, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services, said: "The facilities at Oakes Court are fantastic. This is another example of our commitment to providing excellent care for older people".

For Sue moving to Oakes Court brought the excitement of choosing furniture for her flat and exploring the community areas. And her verdict? "It's very nice - lovely."

Project will put customers first

Putting the customer first is the purpose of a major partnership project that begins this autumn with the refurbishment of the ground floor at King's Court, the offices of the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

The project is part of the Borough's 'Customer First' initiative, through which citizens will enjoy better access to the range of services offered by the Council and partner organisations - Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Police and West Norfolk Council for Voluntary Services.

The way staff work will also change, all with the aim of improving the customer's experience. Front-line staff will be trained across a wide range of services to ensure a more integrated approach, and all contact with customers will be recorded on a single computer system.

For those unable to visit, a new telephone contact centre with longer than normal opening hours will be created, providing a single and well-manned point of contact for all calls to the Borough Council. (The County Council has a similar centre at County Hall, see back page.)

During the work existing services will move to temporary facilities, details of which will be publicised closer to the time.

Four times bigger ten times better!



Big 240-litre green recycling bins have proved so popular in Dersingham that the Borough Council has extended the scheme to Hilgay and Southery.

The new bins are four times bigger than the current green boxes, have lids and handles and the wheels make them much easier to move, even when full. They need to be put out each fortnight, on the usual recycling collection day, alongside the normal bin. It is hoped that the bigger green bins will increase recycling rates, helping the Borough to meet its recycling target of 27%.

Picture shows Borough Council Leader John Dobson presenting a green bin competition prize at Dersingham.

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Spirit of the Fens

The ghostly mistress of Hagbeach Hall, appearing to confess a terrible crime, is just one of the local tales and traditions the children of Emneth will remember, thanks to a new Arts in Education project that has been helping them understand and appreciate their fenland roots.

The three-year project, funded through a £147,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant, will involve 24 Norfolk and Cambridgeshire schools. Upwell Primary, William Marshall (Welney) Emneth and Hilgay schools, gave a combined performance of dance, drama and music at Downham Market.





21st Century King's Lynn

A new 21st Century King's Lynn is emerging from the hoardings and scaffolding.

The picture shows work on the top floor of King's Lynn's new multi-storey car park, on course to open in November. One of the town's oldest surviving buildings, Greyfriars Tower is in the background. The Tower is itself being restored in £1.3m project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and the Borough Council.

The 700-space car park is a key element in the regeneration of King's Lynn's town centre. The £50 million redevelopment of the Vancouver Centre by Caddick Developments is replacing the 1960s street scene with a bigger, modern shopping centre.

The main contractors are McAlpine.

An important milestone has also been reached at King's Lynn's other major development, the Nar-Ouse Regeneration Area (NORA), where

the new access road, built by the County Council with Government funding, has now opened.



NORA, a scheme originally developed by the Borough Council, covers 45 hectares (112 acres) of land in South Lynn between the A47 and Wisbech Road. It is one of only seven Millennium Communities in the country designated by the Government.

