

Items local to Keswick and Intwood

- 1) Again this year has been mainly taken up with the traffic management requirements for Low Road
 - a. After a lot of toing and froing with the contractor and [County](#) the Parish were able to view and comment on the proposal and a final was signed off.
- 2) The other area that caused concerns was the affect the development of the large battery complex was having on traffic on the B1113 particularly with flooding.
- 3) An analysis of traffic movement on the B1113 by the bus stop and Low road was made. Following this a report was prepared showing three options on a safe pedestrian crossing. This was sent toe the Parish and all agreed on the 3rd one involving a “safe” island to cross the road. This was the most expensive of the options and ways of funding will continue.
- 4) **Help us improve the county's mobile phone coverage**

If you experience connection or other broadband problems, take some time to complete our anonymous [mobile experience form](#).

You can read more about the project and visit our mobile coverage checker to see which operator offers the best service in your area by [clicking here for the project's webpage](#)
- 5) Increased members fund to £12000 for environmental linked highways projects.
- 6) **New Park and Ride Schedules from March 30th**. Please keep this link as it will update the available days in the month to come.



Key Details from the Norfolk County Council Budget:

- **Gross Budget:** The council has a gross expenditure budget of £2.2 billion (£1.7 billion excluding schools). This includes:

- £700 million for Adult Social Care
- £367 million for Children's Services (non-schools)
- £283 million for Infrastructure
- £44 million for Communities and Environment
- £46 million for Fire Services
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Net Budget: The net budget for 2025/26 is £572 million. This represents the amount raised through Council Tax to fund the services provided by the council.

- **Budget Growth:** The 2025/26 budget includes an increase of £121 million, which covers:
 - £31 million for inflationary pressures
 - £35 million for legislative pressures (including the increase in the National Living Wage and higher Employers National Insurance contributions)
 - £15 million for demand and demographic pressures
 - Over £25 million to cover recurrent overspends from Adult and Children's Services in 2024/25.
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- **Council Tax:** For 2025/26, Council Tax will increase by 4.99%, which includes a 3% rise for general Council Tax and a 2% increase for the Adult Social Care precept. A Band D household will pay £1,755.63 per year, or around £34 per week, for County Council services in 2025/26.
- **Norfolk's highways set for major investment in the year ahead**
- This month Norfolk County Council Cabinet has reviewed a series of investments and improvements to the county's highways infrastructure.
- Documents reveal how 97 parishes, from Antingham to Worstead, will benefit from projects funded through the Council's Parish Partnership scheme. The 2025/26 programme is designed to deliver what local communities have requested, including trods, village gateways, bus shelters, and vehicle-activated signs.
- The programme is jointly funded by Norfolk County Council and contributions from Town and Parish Councils. This year, Norfolk County Council plans to contribute £425,476, enabling a total investment of £848,702 for local projects.
- **Funding boost for active travel in Norfolk**
- Active Travel England have today announced an additional £4.45million for active travel in Norfolk as part of a **wider nationwide funding package totalling almost £300million.**
- The additional £3.35m for 2025/26 is an outline allocation at this stage and comprises both capital and revenue funding. This means it will be used to fund new active travel initiatives and behaviour change programmes in addition to the delivery of new infrastructure but no decisions on which schemes will be funded have been made.
- The next step will be to prepare proposals for Active Travel England once we receive further details on how the allocation can be spent in the coming months.

- **New apprenticeship starts in Norfolk increase by a staggering 11%**
- Apprenticeship starts with Norfolk businesses and organisations surged by 11% in the first three months of the 2024/25 academic year, compared to a national increase of less than 1.5%.

More details of budget are available on NCC web site

Cllr David Bills

3rd May 2024