

Staying well and getting help this winter

- where to find information and support

NORFOLK County Council has launched a scheme, particularly aimed at families, to provide support for those suffering financial hardship over the winter months due to Covid-19.

Applications can be made online, via the Norfolk Assistance Scheme pages at www.norfolk.gov.uk/NAS or applicants can call 0344 800 8020. Assistance in applying online is also available through Norfolk Libraries.

The Covid Winter Support scheme can help with:

- Day to day living costs, including food and energy bills
- Daily essentials such as toiletries, sanitary products and nappies
- Food vouchers for the school holidays

If you are worried about keeping warm and staying well this winter there are plenty of places to get advice.

Independent Age publishes Winter Wise guides online (search for Independent Age Winter Wise guides). Their helpline phone number is 0800 319 6789.

Citizen's Advice can offer advice and support with energy and heating bills if you are struggling or would like to find out how to manage your payments more effectively. Call 0800 144 88 48.

There's advice on staying well this winter, saving energy costs and financial help online here:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/campaigns/stay-well-this-winter

Norfolk County Council

Finding this winter even harder because of Coronavirus?

We are here to help.

Norfolk County Council's Covid Winter Support scheme can help with:

- Day to day living costs including food & energy bills
- Daily essentials such as toiletries & nappies
- Food vouchers for school holidays

Find out more online or call us now
www.norfolk.gov.uk/covidwintersupport
0344 800 8020
Or visit your local library for help with applying

Contact us today

Support the campaign to give care workers a fair deal

Ed Maxfield wants care workers to be paid at least the Real Living Wage; a fair deal on travel and on overnight care. Please complete this slip to show your support.

Your name:

Your address:

Email address:

Return to Ed Maxfield, Independent Group Room, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH



Keeping in touch during a Pandemic

A LOCAL County Councillor is your voice at County Hall. And a vital part of their work is listening to you.

When the latest lockdown ended, Ed Maxfield started delivering survey leaflets to local homes. You can complete the brief survey online at:

www.edmaxfield.org.uk/survey

"It has been harder to stay in touch with people during the Pandemic but it is so important to stay in touch with people.

"I have attended around 200 Parish Council meetings since I was elected in 2017. I try to deliver leaflets regularly that report back on my work. I am always available if people get in touch about an issue."

Ed Maxfield's attendance record at County Hall and his expenses claims can be found online by searching 'Ed Maxfield Norfolk County Council.'

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A fair deal for care workers

County Councillor's plan to make sure care workers are paid Real Living Wage

COUNTY Councillor Ed Maxfield wants care workers to get a fair deal on pay.

"Care workers have been on the front line of the response to the Pandemic. I want the Council to back moves to give care workers at least the Real Living Wage, plus a fair deal on overnight work and on travel time."

Ed put the proposal to the November meeting of Norfolk County Council but sadly it was voted down.

"There are 25,000 care workers in Norfolk and the experts say there will be thousands more in years to come. My proposal would have been a first step to recognising the real value of the work they do. I will keep up the battle!"



Return the coupon on the back page to show your support for the campaign.

'Baffling' £ millions wasted on County Hall

NORFOLK County Council will have to make huge cuts in spending to cope with the impact of the Pandemic. At the moment staff are working from home. And we are all being encouraged to use our cars less.

But County Hall bosses chose to spend £1.9 million of taxpayer money on increasing the size of the car park and £2.7 million giving a make-over to meeting rooms.

County Councillor Ed Maxfield has spoken out against the plans.

"It's a baffling choice. We all know that work has moved away from big central offices this year and it's not

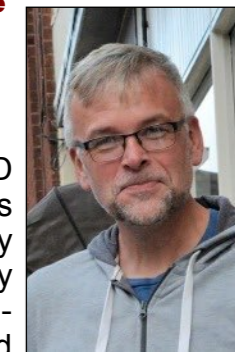


Ed Maxfield says it's a mistake to spend millions of pounds on expanding the car park and on meeting rooms at County Hall at this time.

likely to go back to how it used to be. There are so many things that it's more important to spend the money on. We face further cuts to services in the years ahead."

"I've achieved more for local people in a few months than I could in the past three years."

County Councillor Ed Maxfield explains why he took the decision to 'go independent'



ED MAXFIELD was elected as our local County Councillor in May 2017. Last summer he decided to switch from sitting as a Liberal Democrat councillor to being an Independent.

"It was a difficult decision to leave a party I had supported since I was a teenager but I just felt their views no longer matched mine.

"It means I can speak for local people without being tied to a 'party line'. But what has really changed is that I can get so much more done."

Since becoming an Independent councillor, Ed has worked with politicians across the spectrum to get action for our area.

"I worked with Conservative councillors to beef up the County's Environmental Awards scheme and to explore ways of making the coast road safer. I've teamed up with Lib Dem Tim Adams, County Councillor for neighbouring

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You can follow the work Ed is doing on Facebook at /CouncillorEdMaxfield on Twitter @MaxfieldEd and on his website: www.edmaxfield.org.uk

Going Independent

Continued from front page

Cromer division on road safety and highways repairs in Northrepps and Overstrand. The Trades Union Unison helped with my efforts to get a fair deal for care workers. And North Norfolk's local Member of Parliament has been a big help on issues like the coast road and the gun battery at Mundesley.

"Too often being a party political councillor means just standing on the sidelines and shouting slogans at your opponents."

Services for Children

Norfolk County Council is responsible for local roads, the care of adults and children, libraries and museums and it has a big influence on our local economy.

Ed Maxfield represents over 8,000 people in twelve villages at County Hall and can speak on all of those issues.

He has taken a particular interest in services for children since he was elected in 2017. He is a member of the People and Communities Committee and the Corporate Parenting Board (which has a special responsibility for children who are in the care of the County Council). Ed also serves on the panel overseeing Norfolk's response to an official inspection of Special Needs education.



Bridge closure shows we need long-term answers

THE CLOSURE of Swafield Bridge in October, for long overdue repair work, shows how important it is to find long-term answers to increasing traffic on North Norfolk's roads.



The closure of Swafield Bridge pushed traffic along Hall Lane in Knapton, causing chaos at times. Ed Maxfield is working with the Highways team at County Hall to get repairs done to the damaged road surface.

"The County Council regularly spends money on big road and transport projects but this corner of Norfolk doesn't seem to get its fair share," says Ed Maxfield.

"Traffic on the roads between North Walsham and the coast is just going to keep on increasing. We all want visitors to enjoy North Norfolk but we have to ease the pressure on roads that were not designed for so much traffic."

Ed is working with senior colleagues on the council to find ways of improving safety on the coast road. He has asked for investment in public transport for local villages and for improved cycle routes.

Joined-up action needed for future of our coastline

ED MAXFIELD met recently with local MP Duncan Baker, Trimmingham Parish Councillors and representatives of North Norfolk District Council and County Highways to discuss the future of our coastline.

Under the leadership of Poppyland District Councillor, Angie Fitch-Tillett, NNDC do an award-winning job of looking after our coast. But the long-term effects of erosion cannot be ignored.

"Sadly it's a battle to get Norfolk County Council to take planning for the future of the coast road seriously," says Ed Maxfield.

"Residents have been pushing hard on this issue for years, and they have my support. It's an issue that affects communities right along the North Norfolk coast and it is really important for us all to work together to make local people's voice heard."



A million trees and an 'Eco Dragons' Den' to help protect Norfolk's environment



ED MAXFIELD has won a commitment from the County Council to beef up Norfolk's environmental awards.

Ed asked for the awards programme's tiny budget to be increased and for a new 'Dragons' Den' style innovation award to be introduced.

"One of the first events I attended after I was elected in 2017 was the Eco Awards ceremony. Bacton School won an award that evening and it was great to see so much enthusiasm for local action."

"A prize to reward new ideas would be a great way to put Norfolk on the map when it comes to protecting our environment."

North Norfolk's coast is on the front line of climate change. We can all make a difference in the way we live, protecting our surroundings for future generations.

Fellow Independent councillor Sandra Squire recently saw her proposal for a million trees to be planted across Norfolk come to fruition. Planting of the first trees began at the start of December.

Mundesley Gun Emplacement: why it should matter to all of us

NORTH NORFOLK District Council was widely criticised for the way it damaged the historic gun emplacement at Mundesley - starting the work without any consultation with people or organisations in the village.

Lessons have to be learned.

The site is a much loved feature on this stretch of the coast but what happened says something really important about the way councils should work for local people. We should all care about that. Their first thought should have been 'how do we work with local people? What can they tell us about this place?'

It's not just NNDC that has to learn the lesson. Trimmingham residents raised concerns over the sale of a piece of land in the village. County Hall ignored pleas to work with the community. Instead they only seemed interested in getting as much money as they could for the site. Councils have a responsibility to listen to local people and to be good neighbours.

NNDC has now apologised and promised to work with the community to find a long term future for the gun emplacement site.



County Councillor Ed Maxfield's letter to the Norfolk Norfolk News about the gun emplacement in Mundesley.