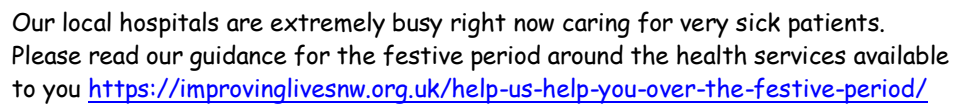




**Wildlife
Watch**



One team

Nine bus operators in Norfolk have today announced that they will be taking part in the Bus Fare Cap Grant scheme.

This means that a single journey on all services run by these operators between 1 January – 31 March 2023 will cost no more than £2 thanks to funding from HM Government.

The scheme is part of the Government's Help for Households campaign designed to support families through cost-of-living pressures.

Operators taking part are:

- BorderBus
- First
- Konectbus
- Our Bus
- Sanders
- Simonds
- Coach Services
- Stagecoach
- Semmence

At a time when many are struggling with the rising cost of living, this is a welcome investment to help bring down travel costs for many. All local operators already offer really good value fares, particularly for multiple trips or group tickets - but this offer will benefit those residents who may only use the bus occasionally or for those who want to try using the bus for the first time. Schemes like this complement our own work in improving bus services across Norfolk well and support us in our ambitions to get more people using public transport more often.

The Department for Transport announced in September plans to invest up to £60 million to introduce the £2 bus fare cap on a single bus ticket on most services in England outside London. Since then operators have received details of the funding that would be available to them and have decided whether or not to take part.

Bus travel remains the most popular form of public transport in England, making up around half of all journeys. That's why we're investing £60 million to cap single bus fares at £2 to support every passenger and help get people back on the bus.

With the scheme set to take two million car journeys off the road, it's fantastic to see so many bus operators signing up to the fare cap, helping people to 'Get Around for £2' between the 1st January and 31st March.

Winter

Power cuts

Are you ready for an unexpected power cut? Parts of the country lost power for up to a week during Storm Arwen last winter, so it's worth taking sensible precautions now:

- Have a stock of non-perishable, easily prepared food that doesn't need cooking
- Have some bottled water – in some places, mains water will stop working if there's no power
- Have enough warm clothes – lots of thinner layers are best – and bedding
- Have LED torches or LED camping lanterns and spare batteries – much safer than candles
- Have an old-fashioned plug-in, landline phone and a list of family members' landline numbers if they still have them – mobile networks soon fail in a power outage

If it happens:

- You can [go to the live power cut map via the UK Power Networks website for information and updates](#). If the Internet is down, dial 105 for updates from UK Power Networks
- Listen to Radio Norfolk on a battery or car radio, for initial updates (95.1 FM in east Norfolk, 95.6 FM in north Norfolk and 104.4 FM in west Norfolk)
- If Radio Norfolk is not working, Radio 2 (88-91 FM) or Radio 4 (92-95FM or 103-105 FM) should still be running
- Look after frail relatives and neighbours

- Beware of carbon monoxide – never bring a barbecue indoors, don't use gas cookers for heating, open a window if you are using a gas camping stove and don't leave it unattended

Driving

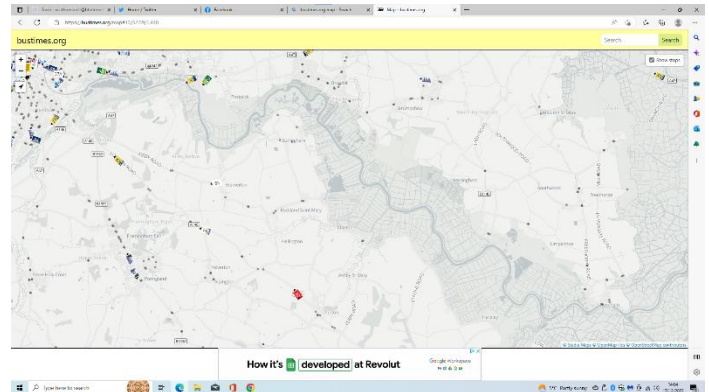
- Gritting
- Check your car
- Have emergency items in car

Recycle/Reuse

- Recycled your Christmas
- Any reuse items

Bus

- Ever wondered when your bus was going to arrive? Now you can.
- Go to bustimes.org select the map and you can see the bus.
- Square with number is a bus



Move from Long Stratton

Now sharing the lodge, going okay except for parking

We have saved £1 million simply by closing Swan Lane

Will move to Broadland gate asp, further saving will be made because new office much more energy efficient than the 2 existing buildings

Already made saving through one officer team.

With our dividends from "Big Sky" we are financially in a very good place this year. We have options to use that money, one of which is we are solvent and do not need money from resident this year!

Election

From May 2023 you will be required to show an official form of photographic identification (ID) when you vote in person at a polling station, a list of acceptable ID documents is included below. If you do not have any of the accepted forms of ID you will be able to apply online for a **free** Voter Authority Certificate – this is a photographic identity document specifically for the purpose of voting.

If you own an accepted form of photographic ID but it has expired it can still be used, as long as the photograph is still a good likeness of you.

The application service for Voter Authority Certificates is expected go live mid January 2023, please check our website for updates and information on how you can apply. If you need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, make sure you do so in good time ahead of it being required at the polling station.

Acceptable forms of ID will include:

- a passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- a driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state
- a biometric immigration document
- an identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- a Blue Badge
- a national identity card issued by an EEA state
- an Older Person's Bus Pass
- a Disabled Person's Bus Pass

- an Oyster 60+ Card
- a Freedom Pass
- a Scottish National Entitlement Card issued in Scotland
- a 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- a Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- a Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a War Disablement SmartPass or War Disabled SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- an Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland

Postal voting

If you use a postal vote you do not need a photo ID. If you are currently using postal vote then you carry on as normal. If don't currently have a postal vote and you are registered to vote in an election or referendum, you may be able to vote by post. A postal vote counts the same as a vote in person and is subject to the same security and secrecy provisions.

You do not automatically get a postal vote even if you are correctly registered for an election or referendum. If you do not already have a postal vote, you have to request one. You do not have to ask for a postal vote just for a particular election or referendum but can have it for all subsequent ones.

Please apply for a postal vote well before Election Day to request a postal vote as you will need to receive, complete and return a postal vote application form.

We mail out the postal votes about 2 weeks before Election Day and we include a prepaid envelope for their return to our offices. Don't forget to return your postal vote before Election Day, or it will not be counted. Full details of how postal votes work, and the rules governing them are provided by the [Electoral Commission](#). Application forms for postal voting are available from the [GOV.UK website](#).

The form needs to be printed and completed by hand. We accept scanned versions, these can be emailed to elections@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk. Alternatively please send paper versions to FAO Electoral Services, Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 ODU.