



JANUARY 2021

THIRD LOCKDOWN BUT LOCAL BIZ BODS ARE OUT THERE FIGHTING...

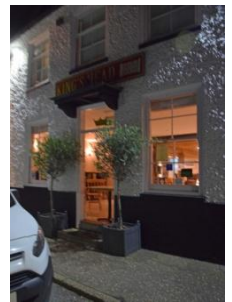
These are tough times for businesses particularly in villages like ours as lockdowns arrive and disappear with little warning - but look on the bright side: There is undoubtedly a more enthusiastic attitude to buying local. There may be less money circulating but there is more anxiety than ever about venturing to shops in town. Sadly, who would have thought that a global pandemic would be a motivating factor behind support local businesses?



The "Shop Norfolk" vouchers idea is still being operated by **Kings Stores** (01953 860264) which means you can get money off future purchases and surely that shop has everything you need to be going on with?! Be aware that during this lockdown there is no Post Office service on Wednesday mornings. Kings Stores' Facebook announcement says: "Sorry for the inconvenience. I will keep you all **posted**". Love it! Currently, Banham PO and Old Buckenham are still operational.



The **King's Head** pub is starting up the fabby Friday burger take-aways again from FRIDAY 29th JANUARY. It's a revamped menu with new toppings, and new options including veggie burgers, chicken breast and pork. You have to pre-order and sooner rather than later. 01953 861247



COUNTY BROADBAND HITS NEXT STAGE FOR ROLLOUT After months of promotions &



Get #futureready

presentations **County Broadband** has reached the sign-up target needed to progress the hyperfast broadband service in New Buckenham i.e. one third of the village. This doesn't necessarily mean it will happen..but the prospect is closer. Backed by a multi-million pound Aviva investment, they'll now do the detailed planning, costing and fine tuning. The infrastructure, like telegraph poles etc. can be shared with BT but the costs of, E.G. laying underground fibre cables to replace slow copper wires may make some locations uneconomic. If all goes smoothly, CB estimates up to 18 months before completion...but the pandemic & changes in planning mean there are no guarantees.

WHO ELSE IS ON BOARD? A question many have asked. CB has contacted at least 6,500 premises across 33 villages in Breckland and South Norfolk. They started the first tranche in the Autumn.

18 Confirmed Villages: Aslacton, Banham, Bressingham, Bunwell, Carleton Rode, Fornsett, Great Moulton, Kenninghall, Needham, North Lopham, Old Buckenham, Pulham Market, Pulham St. Mary, Shelfanger, Starston, Tibenham, Wacton, and Winfarthing.

15 Future Villages were expected to hit the target by early 2021 - New Buckenham is one of them: Blo' Norton, Bridgham, Carbrooke, Caston, Great Hockham, Harling, New Buckenham, Quidenham, Roudham & Larling, South Lopham, Tacolneston, Shropham, Stow Bedon, Snetterton and Wretham.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN? The terminology is confusing & is often used interchangeably-even by experts.

HYPERFAST FTTP (which is the County Broadband offer) means Fibre To The Premises (sometimes described as FTTP - Fibre To The Premises). It comes, via an equipped exchange and local cabinet, all the way to your premises. Currently, (excuse the pun) this last bit is often slow copper cable which has to be changed and that can cause planning and/or building issues.

SUPERFAST FTTC is fibre to an upgraded exchange and thence to a cabinet...not to your door. BT/Openreach are working with Norfolk District Councils and the Govt. to provide FTTP - but mostly for new housing developments above 20 houses, and in Norwich and market towns. Not here. The most recent rural list they've published does not include Norfolk villages. Open Reach building programme is here: [Open Reach FTTP locations file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Openreach%20July%202020%20Area%203%20Market%20Town%20and%20Villages%20Build%20Programme.pdf](file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Openreach%20July%202020%20Area%203%20Market%20Town%20and%20Villages%20Build%20Programme.pdf)

WILL THIS GIVE ME A MOBILE PHONE SIGNAL? Don't confuse CB's offer with a better mobile phone service in the area-except in so far as you can use a wifi facility linked to your broadband to access your mobile phone inside your house...but it won't help you when you go outdoors! More info: CB Sales exec Jonathan Spinks 07507 975965 jonathan.spinks@countybroadband.co.uk or Matthew Buckman 01376 562002 ext 150 matthew.buckman@countybroadband.co.uk

THE LATEST INSTALMENT OF THE MOBILE PHONE MYSTERY - EPISODE 4,693 !!!!



We know you're on the edge of your seat!!! When, we wonder, will Downmore Farm have the O2 mast erected to serve Banham and the Bucks? The wonderful Juliet has been in touch (not from a balcony but from somewhere in a lockdown location)...Juliet Baller, Planning Manager for O2's infrastructure agents, Waldon, has **optimistic-ish** news : *"I am advised that there has been progress with regards to the legal issues, but that we are still some time from being able to schedule build works. There are no outstanding planning issues to deal with so we will look to get the site deployed as soon as possible once all the legal agreements etc have been finalised."*



waldon:

Let's be honest, who knows what that means? Anyone wishing to hazard a time line had better have plenty of money to lose on the bet!



FREE WEBINAR - GETTING STARTED WITH EMAIL MARKETING

A great chance to brush up your sales techniques and it might help you get your business through the hard times. It's a free webinar. You must register

Tuesday 9th February 1200-1300

<https://www.norfolkchamber.co.uk/events>

The best practices of email marketing

- Why email is an essential digital tool for all small businesses
 - How email can end the 'spray and pray' approach to marketing
- Understanding the email marketing techniques that work/don't work



THE BIG DEBATE How do you fancy putting your thoughts to Norfolk MPs and business leaders? The Big Debate is on Friday, 5 February, 2021 - 14:00 to 16:30
Members £20+VAT Non members £35+VAT Book to join the debate and to register your questions.

RECOVERY PROGRAMME NCC is running a series of "Recovery Programme" events to help biz get back on its feet...restart, rebuild and renew. We could do with all the help we can get right now so check them out...what have you got to lose? All of them are FREE!!
Check out all the NCC events at : <https://www.norfolkchamber.co.uk/events>

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES LATEST Keep up with the Government info by getting yourself onto their notifications list. It can be handy. Here are a few reminders:

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), December furlough claims should have been in by Jan 14th. If you have a reasonable excuse for not claiming by the deadline, e.g. you were self-isolating or in hospital you can claim late. But be quick. Go to GOV.UK and search 'claim for wages'. You can make changes to a claim already submitted but only until **Thursday 28 January**. **Make your claims for January now. The deadline is Monday 15 February.** You don't have to have claimed before. You can be a newbie!

Furlough for caring responsibilities. You can furlough employees who have to care for others due to Covid-19 e.g. looking after children who are at home due to school closures.

TO FIND OUT WHAT COVID-19 HELP YOU ARE ENTITLED TO, GO HERE:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

IMPORT-EXPORT BREXIT CHAOS. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!!! HMRC YOUTUBE CHANNEL

It's no exaggeration to say there has been huge disruption, vast unexpected costs and long delays since 1st January. It's frightening. Small businesses are being particularly hard hit. It is not because companies were not prepared, and it is not for lack of trying to assess what might happen. It is increasingly clear that border posts did not have everything in place, there are not sufficient software programmes yet and individual EU countries are imposing individual regulations. HMRC has its own YouTube channel with videos to help importers/exporters. A word of warning. Some of the videos are company promotions rather than objective offers of advice which is, perhaps, an unexpected feature on a Government website!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7L6hvg6XZc&list=PL8EcnheDt1zgewSxxQGs7I9OGDC2KxYTo&index=4>

[HMRC you tube channel](#)

To get local information, advice or need to apply for loans from **Breckland District Council** here is the link: <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/article/15960/Coronavirus-Grant-Information>

THE GOVERNMENT'S LOCKDOWN RULES ARE HERE:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949536/NationalLockdownGuidance.pdf

THE BBC'S SITE IS GOOD: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-52530518>

Anyone in Norfolk who is experiencing Covid-19 symptoms should book a test. See the details here: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/

All Biz Buzz crisis updates are to be found on www.np4nb.online