
Council



Forest Heath
District Council

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Welcome Back

I hope everyone had a good holiday this summer and I would like to welcome everyone back. I think we should recognise that although it is traditionally the holiday period, the hard work of delivering high quality services and serving our communities continued by our dedicated councillors and staff.

Single Council

Forest Heath District Council has led from the front in transforming local government and today we are to debate taking yet another innovative step. No matter what side of the debate I think we can all agree there has been a lot of hard work from councillors and officers preparing and looking at the single council proposals. Our very own Councillor Ruth Bowman has chaired the cross party, cross council steering group which has been very constructive. I would like to thank all involved, both officers and councillors, and look forward to a full debate where I know we will all have what is best for the communities we serve at the heart of our discussions.

Solar farm

As mentioned previously we are an innovative council which is why I was pleased to see our solar farm at Lakenheath celebrate its first birthday. I would also recommend you watch the innovative way we celebrated with a video and special song which was showcased on Anglia TV and can be used by visitors and children. The Toggam solar farm supports the delivery of the Council's Community Energy Plan and generates an annual income which we can use to help fund essential services. At the end of the first year, the solar farm has generated 11,682MWh of electricity, bringing in £1.2m of income, £308K net income (taking into account the capital outlay) to contribute towards funding local services. This is predicted to rise to £700,000 a year.

Tour of Britain

Forest Heath has strong cycling links and we are a great area to ride around with places such as Brandon Park for example. So it was great to host the start of stage six of the Tour of Britain cycle race in our district. This was a team effort and I would like to thank all the partners involved from the public and private sector that organised and sponsored the event, making it such a great success. Crowds lined the streets from the start in Newmarket and through the area. Our district appeared on national and international television and I hope gave inspiration to people to hop on their bikes. While you don't have to ride as quickly as the Tour riders, cycling is a healthy way to get exercise and an even better way to enjoy our countryside.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

We have always had close working relationships with our partners in moving forward initiatives and improvements for our communities, such as lobbying for better transport links. I was pleased to meet with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Mayor James Palmer. He recognises the innovative way we work and sees the benefit of a closer relationship going forward to drive forward improvements, especially on cross border issues.

New Councillor

I would like to welcome new councillor Robert Nobbs who was elected to the St Mary's Ward Newmarket in August.