

## Young vandals who targeted gardens are caught

Three youngsters have been caught in Costessey after carrying out a spate of criminal damage in the village. Nine householders in Longwater Lane were targeted and had garden walls damaged by the youngsters who took off stones or pushed over the entire wall. Extra police patrols were carried out after complaints flooded into the Bowthorpe and Costessey Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). As a

result of investigations, three youngsters admitted their part in the nine offences. Two have been reprimanded and the third is to receive a reprimand.

Insp Kathryn Thacker said: "The Longwater Lane offences of criminal damage took place over a two week period and were out of character for the area. I am pleased to say that local officers used their resourcefulness to quickly identify

and deal with the three, previously unknown, offenders. I hope that their prompt actions will offer reassurance to the local community that such criminal activity and anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated. This was a team effort between the community, SNT and patrol officers from Bowthorpe Police Station which has dealt effectively with a problem that was causing widespread concern."

# New homes and jobs bid gets £11.3m boost

A bid to bring nearly 40,000 new homes to Norfolk has been boosted after millions of pounds worth of funding granted by the government.

The Greater Norwich Development Partnership has been tasked with creating 35,000 new jobs and sites for 47,500 new homes in the Norwich area by 2026 and yesterday received £11.3m to help towards this.

The money will specifically go to support growth in the districts of Norwich, Broadland, and South Norfolk and paying for infrastructure projects, such as road improvements.

As well as implementing measures to combat traffic congestion and build new cycle routes, the money will also go towards schemes including the Catton Park Project, which will renovate a heritage site to the North East of Norwich, and the Norwich Fringes Wooded Ridge Project, which will see new trees planted all around the city.

GNDP manager Sandra Eastaugh, said: "The announcement is great news for local people.

"We've been working hard to send a message to the government, letting them know that growth will only happen if they invest in the area.

"This money is a welcome contribution and will help pay for essential new infrastructure, contributing to a sustainable future for generations of local people.

"The government needs to keep up the support if we are to meet housing targets and realise local ambitions for the area."

The plans for the new homes have caused concern in some quarters that the character of villages in

**Housing hopes:** Rackheath is a possible site for a new eco-town. PHOTO: MIKE PAGE



Norfolk could be destroyed forever by turning them into new towns to meet the government housing targets.

Norwich City Council, South Norfolk Council, Broadland District Council and Norfolk County Council have come up with different options for where the homes should go with Hethersett and Little Melton highlighted as one option for a so called new county town.

John Fuller, leader of South Norfolk Council, said: "Clearly any contribution towards the funding deficit of £350m for the greater Norwich area is welcome. We hope this is new money and not just a re-enactment of a grant indicated last year. My suspicion is that some of this money will go towards road schemes, but we're expecting a further sum of money to help develop the valuable northern distributor route. This will help address the shortfall but the big slug of money for the NDR we are hoping will be announced shortly."

Plans for an eco town at Rackheath have also been put forward to cope with the increased growth after doubts emerged about the sustainability of the original proposal at Coltishall.

In August, it was reported that the prospect of a Norwich northern bypass, which form part of the plans for the Greater Norwich Redevelopment, had moved a step closer after ministers placed the city on a shortlist to get £21m.

This cash would be used to expand park and ride, boost the Broadland Business Park and help create the crucial first junction interchange at Postwick.

A decision on this pot of money will be made in the new year.

**→ Do you have a story for the Evening news? Call reporter Tracey Gray on 01603 772418 or email tracey.gray@archant.co.uk**

**Tracey Gray**  
tracey.gray@archant.co.uk

## 'Zero tolerance' of anti-social behaviour

**Community leaders and police officers in Bradwell are concentrating on anti-social behaviour for the next few weeks.**

**Kingfisher Close and the Rainbow supermarket in Mill Lane have been identified by people in the community as problem areas.**

**Families in the village identified the issues at the Bradwell Safer Neighbourhood Meeting on Tuesday.**

**A member of the team said the previous issues of criminal damage, speeding and parking issues outside Hillside, Homefield and Woodlands Schools had all been addressed.**

**Officers promised to continue to patrol Burgh Road after reports of anti-social behaviour during the past few months.**

**A police spokesman said: "We will continue to patrol this area with a zero tolerance attitude. If any youths are found or seen in the area we will disperse and deal with any ASB as appropriate. We will also be using body cameras to help deter offenders."**

## New Lotus is scooping big prizes already

A new sportscar being made just outside Norwich has picked up a shelf-full of awards before it even hits the showrooms.

Hethel's Lotus plant has been busy over the last year producing the Lotus Evora – the Norfolk-based company's first new car since the iconic Esprit made its debut in 1995.

Set to go on sale next Spring, the car has already picked up a string of awards after it was revealed at the British Motorshow in July. Its most recent award comes from specialist iMotor Magazine – whose readers have rated it the hottest car of the year.

In every issue of the magazine readers are invited to 'rate' or 'slate' featured cars – and of 40,000 voters 95pc rated the new Lotus, making it the magazine's most approved car.

Mike Kimberley, CEO of Group Lotus plc, said: "This award is special as it demonstrates that we have produced a car that already has a fan base."

## Caravan spaces set for refusal at holiday camp

Plans to allow a holiday camp space for 200 more caravans have been recommended for refusal.

The proposals are to allow 150 caravans to be sited on a former golf course and five additional caravans in an existing site at Sundowner Holiday Park in Newport Road, Hemsby.

The application is recommended refusal on the grounds that the provision of additional holiday caravans has not been justified and that the development would intrude on the landscape and cause extra strain on the drainage system. Six letters of objection have been sent to the council.

## Police issue a warning over festive presents

**Motorists and householders are being reminded not to leave Christmas presents on show.**

**Police are reminding people that opportunist thieves will prey on valuables in vehicles or presents under trees which can be seen through windows.**

**A spokesman from Norfolk Constabulary said: "Being a victim of crime can be**

**prevented by the owners of property exercising a bit more care." An officer, from the east coast, added: "We have received reports of vehicles left on driveways in Yarmouth and Caister that have had goods stolen from them and in most cases the vehicles were unlocked. People have to make it difficult for the criminals."**

Christmas at Chapelfield.  
Shop late every night.\*



Open 'til 8pm in December  
(and 10pm on Thursdays).  
\*Except Sundays 11am to 5pm.



www.chapelfield.co.uk

Chapelfield