

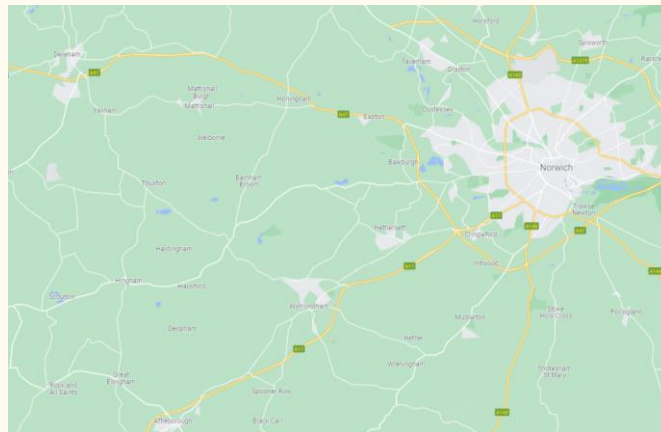


Thursday 9th September 2021

Dear [Parish Council],

A Vision for the “Norfolk Research Triangle”

I’m writing to you as a key local figure in the area that I call the “Norfolk Research Triangle” – located between Norwich, Dereham and Wymondham/Attleborough and which in the coming years will see the growth of the world class Norwich Research Park spreading out and bringing new jobs, businesses and prosperity to parishes such as your own.



As we all know, our part of the world is one of the most beautiful and picturesque places in the country, with a valuable rural spirit and rural way of life that we must work to preserve and enhance (after all, it is why we love living here so much, and why so many take the time to come and visit our area every single year!). As growth and development comes to our region however, I believe that there is a need for us all, as a community, to come together and work out how we can embrace it in a way that allows us to “level up”, “build back better” post-Covid and improve the lives of everyone living here, but also ensures our wonderful corner of Norfolk is not ruined by poor planning and rat-running – to name just two issues.

Such growth and opportunity should not be feared. It must be properly planned for though.

I believe that, as the NRP continues to expand, the Cambridge-Norwich Tech Corridor continues to develop, and the Hethel Engineering Centre and Easton Food Hubs go from strength to strength, we will see more and more businesses “spinning out” and basing themselves in our local communities, rather than the traffic-jammed towns and cities that the old ‘pre-Covid’ model of life and Business so often dictated. They will do so because they, and their staff, want a better quality of life and, in doing so, they will bring the prosperity and jobs that will benefit our lives, our children’s lives and the lives of many more generations to come.

Constituency Office

8 Damgate Street, Wymondham, NR18 0BQ



George Freeman MP
Member of Parliament for Mid Norfolk
House of Commons, London SW1A
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There is a real opportunity to be grasped here – and if we do it right, we can breathe fresh life into our rural communities, with local amenities needed again as more people work from home; put in place proper walking and cycling routes to promote the cleaner, greener, healthier style of life our society needs to move towards on the Road to Net Zero; and spread the ‘green’ jobs of tomorrow amongst our communities so that gone are the days where so many of our youngsters have had to leave in search of better prospects and incomes.

In recent months, I have been struck by just how many of our local parishes have recognised the opportunities and reached out to declare an interest in using this period post-Covid to look at local regeneration and how they can make sure they reap the rewards of future growth in our area in a way that respects our rural nature and way of life.

It is for that reason that I have decided to organise a small forum for those parishes that wish to be involved – with the aim of bringing them together to look at what can be done collaboratively to frame this ‘vision’ and then seek to make it a firm reality.

While no date has been fixed as yet, I wanted to write and ask you for your thoughts (positive or negative), and whether your parish may be interested in being involved? If so, I can make sure to include you in all future correspondence and update you once the date/time of the first meeting has been fixed.

I’m conscious that this area contains some villages outside my constituency (Honingham in Jerome Mayhew MP’s constituency and a number of communities in Richard Bacon MP’s South Norfolk) and so I will also be reaching out to both Jerome and Richard to suggest they write to those parishes in their constituencies and join our effort to frame an exciting ‘vision’ for the future.

I really hope you will be interested, and hope to hear from you soon.

Yours,

George Freeman MP

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