

NORWICH RESEARCH PARK IN FOCUS

Changing Lives & Rethinking Society



FOCUSING IN ON THIS ISSUE:

1. Where to Next?
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4. Forward Together!



WHERE TO NEXT?

As we close out on another week of lockdown and, despite the very real and profound tragedy and difficulties many people face, there is evidence that people are thinking differently. Every day there are more remarkable stories of people working out ways in which they can help others during this crisis, and of businesses repurposing and innovating to do their bit in the fight against a common enemy.

With every day that passes I find myself more convinced that I am not looking forward to getting back to 'normal' – where the operative word is 'back'. We have already learned so much that past norms are now being challenged. We have learned more about simple humanity and looking out for those around us. We have learned to collaborate and connect in ways we might only have dreamed about before. We have learned to value things

we took for granted, such as the NHS and other support and care groups. We have learned to value our freedom and the environment out there. We have learned more about communities and the joy of waving to our neighbours as we clap our NHS heroes on Thursday evenings. We have learned to value our families and our friends. In business, we have learned that profit (whilst important) is not everything. I for one want to hang on to what I have learned and I want it to change my future.

We are now starting to talk more about 'exit strategies' but for me, the big question here is 'exit to what?'. This is one of those watershed moments in life - do we want to go back to the way we did things before, or do we want to do things in the new ways we have learned?

For Norwich Research Park (NRP), our Partners, our community, our suppliers and all who work here, my hope is that we decide to retain the collaboration, community, innovation, humanity and values that have blossomed over the last few weeks as mainstays of our new future.



COLLABORATION AND COMMITMENT

It has been truly inspiring to see the response across our NRP family to the pandemic.

The NRP has a partnership at its core, NNUH, UEA, John Innes Centre, Quadram Institute Bioscience, Earlham Institute, The Sainsbury Laboratory, all greatly supported by The John Innes Foundation and BBSRC. At its heart is a collaborative model; we are one family with our wider Park community, and this has shown through during this crisis. We have been able to mobilise quickly, efficiently and effectively; we have picked up the phone to our friends and done things – together.

The NNUH as a core partner gave us the possibility of bringing our entire resources to bear, we have looked at our entire 233 hectare campus as one space, our buildings as opportunities in which to do things,

and our people with their knowledge, skills and networks have deployed willingly and positively. Despite the awfulness of the cause, we have much in our people and our partnership to celebrate.

The work we have done on building our place in the region's wider community, talking about who we are and what we do, has paid off; we have seen an unprecedented level of support for our activities from friends, old and new, across the region – supplying ethanol, PPE, accommodation and transport for key workers, and more.

This is a chance to say thank you, thank you to the medical teams, thank you to everyone across the Park for doing so many things and for supporting their colleagues,

and thank you to everyone beyond the Park who has supported us in so many different ways.

The efforts across the Park are many: sanitizer production, PPE manufacture, 3D printing of ventilator parts, testing kit development, COVID-19 genomic work, a drive through testing facility, preparing and using space across the Park for NHS support activities, helping with training additional staffing for the NNUH, volunteering projects, and then of course right at the heart of the work is all of the incredible care and treatment being given to so many at the NNUH itself. The list here is by no means complete, but we have used our unique facilities, our unique skills and the power of our family and friendships wherever we can – and we keep looking for more we can do.

When COVID-19 takes a day off then so will we at the NRP!



**This is a
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PRACTICALITY AND PLANNING

In our thinking we all have two questions: When will the doors reopen for more usual work? And will everything we need be in place when that happens?

Of course on the first we are guided by Government advice and at this juncture, whilst we might guess, we don't actually know, although we can be reasonably certain we won't move from lockdown one day to complete lifting of all restrictions the next.

The second part of the question is something that across the partnership and within our individual organisations we are

thinking about and planning for. Within our community we have groups who are used to talking together, and they are comparing thoughts and building plans. This is one of the priorities I have been working on, ensuring that we have the cross-park communication giving us confidence that the right people are handling the right areas of this broad plan. Where the responsibilities rest with the central partnership team, I have been working to ensure we have detailed plans in place that include the right discussions with our suppliers together with those who use our space and services.

There are complexities that we must respect in our plans, as much of the COVID-19 work will continue after we restart a level of active work on the site; for example the drive through testing facility in the car park may still be there.

Our engagement with colleagues across the Park will progressively increase over the coming days to make sure that the efficiency and effectiveness we showed in entering the crisis is matched by our return from it. Please watch out for these bulletins over the coming days and weeks for the detail of these plans.



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FORWARD TOGETHER

As a Park community we can be proud of our contribution to the crisis, and we should be equally proud of everyone else across the region who has done so much, and this leads me to finish this bulletin as I started, by looking to the future. Lockdown began only last month, and although only a matter of weeks, it has been a defining moment for us all. We were a community before, we are still a community, COVID-19 has done nothing but strengthen that. We have seen in crisis just what our community is capable of, and we know that in normal times our community also does incredible things.

It may take time, but answers will be found to control COVID-19, however the challenges our world faces will remain: feeding an ever growing population, bringing our environment and its climate back from the brink, ensuring

that ageing is coupled with good health not least protecting our world and its people from future pandemics – all things that are about the science of our community.

Before the crisis we had been working very hard to bring the knowledge and reputation of our place (the NRP) to a level that is worthy of the globally excellent people and science that are here at the NRP. A community of people, yes, a partnership of world leading organisations, also yes. The NRP does not diminish the excellence and the pride in the individual organisations, rather it brings an extra dimension, one that speaks of collaboration, of place and of advocacy for those people and organisations. We had made much progress, and there have been many examples of this, for example our science and scientists have been regularly featured in

local press, and in December we hosted the BBC for a day of TV and radio interviews. We had an increasing number of high level international and UK Government visits to our Park and our networks grew, regionally, nationally and internationally. We enjoy a level of advocacy for our place (NRP) we have never seen before, and, as a business we have moved into financial sustainability. We agreed a new vision a little while ago and we have been making good strides to deliver this, I am now encouraging us to combine our near term progress and our continued focus on our Vision with long term Imagineering so that we take the great things we have today as the foundations for NRP to truly be the place of global recognition and leadership that our people, our science and our region deserve.

Mission2020, Vision2030, Ambition2050



Forward Together