

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Division

Report November 2020

Covid 19:

The Covid 19 infection rates are rising among the working population in Norfolk and there are concerns that this could lead to an increase in the infection rate among the over 60s which will impose a strain on hospital accommodation. As of the 23rd October the infection rate has risen to 89.2 per 1000k of population, the Breckland area has the highest rate at 171 per 100k. The Breckland rate of infection is mainly due to the outbreak in a food processing plant in Watton where nearly half of workers tested have proved positive. To prevent the transmission of the virus to the vulnerable members of the population it is important to follow the strict guidelines: Hands – Face – Space and the rule of 6. Norfolk remains in Tier One restrictions.

In advance of any serious second wave please remember to contact those people who needed support during the last lockdown to reassure them of support in the future if required.

Flu:

Flu causes the death of around 15,000 people in the UK each year. The most vulnerable group are those people over 65, the same group that are at most risk from Covid 19. There has been an increase in the take up of the flu vaccine this year, but the message must be to all those who are at most risk i.e. those with underlying respiratory conditions plus those over 65 to get a flu jab.

Budget:

There is still considerable uncertainty in what government funding will be available for financial year 21/22. Additionally, the government has not stated whether the allowed percentage increase in the general precept will remain at 2% or be amended. There is also uncertainty as to whether a rise is permissible in the adult social care precept. Despite this uncertainty NCC are obliged to consult on its budget proposals for 20/21 making suppositions as to governments intentions. The consultation runs until the 14th December, details can be found on the NCC website. The Council will set its council tax at its February 2021 meeting.

Grass Cutting:

As part of the budget consultation (above) it is proposed to reduce grass verge cutting on “C” and “U” roads from 2 cuts per year to one. Also, it is proposed to reduce urban cuts from 5 to 4 per year.

Boundary Review:

The second Boundary commission consultation on proposed changes to the Councils Division boundaries closes on the 23rd November. A change from the initial consultation is that Brisley is added to the new Division “Launditch”. Due to a delay in the process due to Covid any changes will not take place until the 2025 Norfolk Council elections.

Parish Partnership:

A reminder that bids for 50% funding for small highway improvements under the Parish Partnership scheme need to be submitted by the middle of December. If you have any queries please contact me in the first instance.

County Farms:

The County Council is committed to maintaining the County Farm Estate in excess of 16,000 acres. The tenanted farms which vary in size provide a thriving and progressive estate which supports individual businesses and enables economic growth into the county's agricultural sector and indirectly into numerous related businesses. Any capital receipt from the sale of redundant buildings and land are reinvested in the estate. The County Farm estate was recently increased through the purchase of 163 acres.

If any of the above changes I will give a verbal update at your meeting.

Happy Christmas.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.

Member for Necton and Launditch.

Norfolk County Council.