

## **County Councillor for Necton and Launditch**

### **Report March 2021**

**Budget:** The County Council set the budget for 21/22 at the February meeting. As related in previous reports the general council tax has been raised by 1.99% and the adult social care part of the tax has been increased by 2%. There is significant pressure on the budget through growth in demand especially in adult social care and making over £18m provision for short term Covid 19 pressures. However, the budget represents a continued sustained investment in maintaining and strengthening the councils key services while simultaneously providing the maximum possible resources to address ongoing Covid 19 costs which are expected to continue into 2021/22.

Included in the budget is £400k to be spent on renewal and expansion of local footpaths as well as a further £495k over the next 3 years on the Greenways project to which will benefit the health and wellbeing of Norfolk residents.

Members personal budget has been increased from £6k to £10k and as well as small highway improvements can also be used to support environmental projects.

**Highways:** At last, a new highway engineer has been appointed and he started work last week. I have planned to escort him around my division next week to impart some of my local knowledge as he does not know this part of Norfolk. Another 2 members of staff have also been recruited to the highways team for this area so there is now a full complement of inspectors and technicians.