

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

### **Report for October 2021**

**Budget:** The Council's budget for 22/23 was due to be agreed at the Cabinet meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October prior to the annual consultation process. However, the government is due to issue a statement on the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October. This may (or may not) alter the assumptions and calculations for next year's budget that have been made so far. Consequently, to allow for any recalculations required by changes in government funding and other regulations the future budget will be agreed at cabinet in either November or December with public consultation on the proposals being held in either December or January. The budget will be set at a meeting of full Council in February next year.

**Grass Cutting:** The grass cutting regime of roadside verges and other areas will change next year. The "rural" cut will consist of 2 cuts on A & B roads and only one on C & U roads. The "urban" cut will be brought back "in house" (previously a Breckland contract run by Serco) and will consist of 4 cuts. I have expressed concerns that the visibility at some junctions on C & U roads may be affected by the lack of a second cut on those roads which are being taken forward by the highways team.

**Parish Partnership:** A reminder that the deadline for applications for funding from the parish partnership is 10<sup>th</sup> December. The partnership will fund 50% of the cost of small-scale highway improvements; the other half of the funding coming from the parish.

**Members Personal Budget:** The personal budget for members has been increased this year from £6k to £10k. I can now allocate funding from this "pot" towards not only highway projects but also small schemes to support the environment in any of the 23 parishes within my division. Applications can be made direct to me for consideration.

**Councillor's Tree Fund:** I have been allocated several "tree packs" as part of a pilot scheme for the 21/22 planting season. This forms part of the "One Million Trees for Norfolk" initiative being funded by NCC. I will attach a leaflet on the scheme when forwarding this report.

Mark Kiddle-Morris