

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

### **Report for December 2021**

**Budget:** The County Council will present its budget for financial year 22/23 and set the council tax at its meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2022. The current proposal is to raise the general council tax level by 1.99% and raise the adult social care precept by 1%. The budget proposals are out for consultation until the 30<sup>th</sup> of December, details of the proposals and how to respond to the consultation are available on the NCC website.

Pressure on the demand led services of adult social care and children's services has required the council to seek £24.5m of savings from the 22/23 budget. This is mainly due to the increasing age of the population in Norfolk placing ever decreasing demand on adult social care. There are further pressures for next year with the increase in national insurance contributions, the increase in minimum wage levels and energy price increases, these pressures affect the cost of the services we purchase, notably adult social care. Additionally of concern is the increasing cost of home to school transport especially that of transport of children to special schools.

**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.

**Councillor Tree Packs:** I still have some packs of trees available free of charge to enable parish councils and local organisations to participate in the "One Million Trees for Norfolk" campaign. This is the first pilot year of the 5 year project. If you would like to plant a few trees, please let me know.

**Personal Budget:** you may recall that I have been allocated a personal budget of £10k this year £4k more than last year. I can fund small scale highway improvements and projects that enhance the environment from this budget. My tree packs mentioned above are funded from here. If you have any projects that you need a little help with, please let me know.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Best wishes MKM.