

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Division

Report January 2022

Budget:

The Council will set its budget for financial year 22/23 at a meeting to be held on 21st February. The Council consulted on a proposed council tax increase of 1.99% in the general rate and an increase of 1%, the consultation ended on the 30th December 2021. Cost pressure in the major demand led services of Adult Social Care and Children's Services is the main reason for having to increase the council tax. There are still some work which the government has not carried out (fairer funding review, NDR review, financing of adult social care etc) which will affect the Councils finances in future years.

Covid – Omicron:

We know that the Omicron variant of the Covid virus generally leads to milder illness. However, it still poses a significant risk to the unvaccinated or those who haven't had a booster or those with underlying conditions such as being immunosuppressed. The variant is also much more infectious and thus easily spread. The government has told NCC to expect unprecedented sickness rates over the coming weeks with an estimated 25% of staff being absent. Given the high infection rates our prime objective is to minimise staff infection and isolation to ensure we can deliver our critical services. We are doing this by avoiding bringing staff together unnecessarily (ie work from home) and concentrating our face to face presence on service delivery. If over the coming weeks you or any resident has difficulty accessing NCC services, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attendance at Meetings:

As your County councillor for Necton and Launditch I represent the 3rd largest area in Norfolk with 23 parishes of which 18 have regular parish council (PC) meetings. Some meetings are held monthly and some, the majority, are held bi-monthly. In the months where the bimonthly meetings are held there are 18 PC meetings, this inevitably means that on several nights in that month there will be 2 or even 3 meetings scheduled on the same night. I have recently changed my schedule to ensure that every PC meeting is visited at least every 2 months, this will mean that I will only attend those PCs that hold regular monthly meetings (there are 5) every other month. If there are serious concerns about any matter on the agendas for those PCs who hold monthly meetings, I will of course attend those meetings. I am always available on the telephone or via email (almost) 24/7!! Please let me know if you have any problems with this arrangement.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.

Member for Necton and Launditch.

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