

## **County Councillors Report November 2023**

### **Reporting Highway and Countryside Defects:**

A rapid response to any highway or countryside defect or query is required by both the complainant and Norfolk County Council (NCC). To this end it is essential that all defects are reported using the report it tab on the NCC website. This will ensure that the team rather than an individual picks up the query and places remedial measures in place and that the query is acknowledged. The fault/query can also be interrogated to find what action is being taken.

The report it function accepts photos (which are desirable) and a long verbal description if required. Requests for speed limit reductions and extensions, new road markings and street furniture should also use the report it function.

### **Devolution Deal for Norfolk:**

Debate amongst members about the benefits, or otherwise, of the devolution deal presented to Norfolk County Council by the government is ongoing; the final decision whether to agree to the deal or not will be taken at the meeting of full council on the 12<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Flooding:**

The recent heavy rain has caused flooding in many places. Surface water run off from land and properties has caused some roads to flood as the local ditches cannot cope. There have also been instances of the foul sewer system failing because of the large amounts of surface water entering the foul sewer. This has caused the toilets of some properties to back up and become unusable.

Highway flooding (not ponding \_ temporary flooding) should be reported using the report it tab. Problems with sewage should be reported to Anglian Water on 03457 145145. Internal flooding of properties (not sewage) and serious flooding to property should be reported to the Norfolk Floodline 0344 8008013.

## Budget for 2024-25:

The Council is required to publish its draft for the annual budget and council tax levels for the financial year 2024-25 to enable stakeholders and residents to submit their views on the package of proposals. The consultation started on the 20<sup>th</sup> October and runs until the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

To help us deal with our cost pressures and invest in vital services our current budget planning is based on an assumption to raise general council tax by 2.99% and 2% for the adult social care precent (a total of 4.99%) in 2024-25.

The consultation will be promoted using a variety of different channels in order to obtain a wide range of people's views and reach people who are likely to be affected.

### **How can local people find out about the consultation and have their say?**

- We will publicise the consultation using social media, such as Facebook and X, previously known as Twitter and in the local media.
- A press release will be sent out briefing local media on the consultation and its contents.
- People will be able to read the proposals online at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget) and feedback their views using the online consultation.
- We will encourage members of the Norfolk Residents' Panel to participate in the consultation. The Panel currently comprises over 900 Norfolk residents.
- 

Using the online feedback form ensures we have a clear record of people's response and that their views are accurately recorded. We will provide copies online of PDF documents so that people can download these themselves if they want a hard copy. There will also be Easy Read and large print versions available for download.

We appreciate that some residents may not have online access and people who are unable to respond online can send us their views in writing to: Freepost Plus RTCLXSTT-JZSK Norfolk County Council, Ground Floor, South wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH. Please note, arrangements have been made to scan in any post when it arrives at County Hall and email to the stakeholder and consultation team who will be analysing all the responses received via post and e-mail.

Residents can request the budget consultation in other formats, including paper form, by calling 0844 800 8020 or emailing [HaveYourSay@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:HaveYourSay@norfolk.gov.uk) in line with our standard practice. This will include Braille, audio etc. The Council will debate the budget at its meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Mark Kiddle-Morris, Norfolk County Council,  
Member for Necton & Launditch.