# **October Report**

Following the Queen’s death many NCC meetings were postponed for a couple of weeks or more. When meetings commenced a minutes silence for reflection was held at the start of each meeting.

The Proclamation for King Charles was held outside County Hall so that members of the public could be present.

Libraries

The Summer Reading Challenge for children aged 12 and under was a great success with around 9,000 children taking part. This year the theme was Gadgeteers. Over the last couple of weeks children have been presented with certificates and medals as a reward for completing the challenge.

Fire Service

A new position of Director of Fire and Rescue has been created to replace the position of Chief Fire Office and lead the Norfolk Fire Service. Ceri Sumner has been appointed to this position. She will deal with all the regulations, Inspection and organisational work and her deputy will lead on operational responses.

Norwich Western Link

The eight week Norwich Western Link Consultation finishes on October 9th. There have been four events in nearby villages as well as the on line consultation to give everyone a chance to comment before the planning application is submitted.

Special Educational Needs

As part of the SEND Transformation programme 86 new specialist education places are being proposed at six primary and secondary schools. These are in addition to the 30 places agreed earlier this year and the three new SEND schools that are being built. The school at Easton will open next year.

Budget

The Council has been holding regular meetings to identify how to reduce the £60million gap that is predicted for 2023 by asking every Service to review it’s budget and how it is used. They are reviewing how services are provided and ensuring there is no duplication across services. This is taking time but should be completed by Spring next year.

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships

Norfolk County Council: Hingham Division

South Norfolk Council: Easton Ward