

## November Report from County Councillor

### NCC budget

Norfolk county Council will set a new budget on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023. As usual the Council is consulting local residents as part of the process and this will include consulting on changes to services to help reduce costs. Details can be found on line at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget) or paper copies can be requested via [haveyoursay@gnorfolk.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@gnorfolk.gov.uk) The consultation will run until 16<sup>th</sup> December.

### Help and support

Having received another £6.7million from the Government's Household Support Fund the council has added a further £1.2 million to ensure there is sufficient funding for the continuation of the 15 food hubs which have already supported over 12,000 people.

The Council is also providing Norfolk Community Foundation with £220,000 to provide grants of up to £2,000 towards the cost of running or setting up a Community 'Hot Spot' to provide a warm area for local people impacted by the cost of living crisis. The Cost of Living Support has already helped over 128,000 households. People can see which support they are eligible for and apply for help on line at: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/nas](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/nas)

### Libraries

As usual libraries are running a variety of services and activities including providing a 'Warm Hub' to sit and socialise, including hot drinks, and giving out Health Bags containing toiletries and Warm Bags containing a hot water bottle, scarf, gloves etc. for those who cannot afford them.

A Community Post Office has been opened in Hethersett Library and is being run by Hethersett Hearts CIC (Community Interest Company).

### Training for small businesses

Pathways Training Fund is offering grants and support for small and medium sized businesses via the SPARC (Skills, Progression, Adaptability, Resilience and Co-ordination) Project Co-ordinator, Lisa Cook. Contact: [lisa.cook3@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.cook3@norfolk.gov.uk)

### Trading Standards

Trading Standards has been very busy dealing with Avian Flu. There are now about 50 sites (increasing all the time) in Norfolk. This is the largest amount in the country. Last year Lincolnshire had the largest number with just 12 sites. Some of their staff, plus staff from Suffolk Trading Standards have come to assist our staff with delivering leaflets and door knocking. Staff from other NCC services have also assisted.

Anyone keeping 50 or more birds is legally required to register, people with fewer birds can voluntarily register, then they are kept informed of the latest information and advised what actions to take to reduce the risk to their birds.

### Queen's Green Canopy

Many visitors attended the Apple Day celebrations at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum where they also had the opportunity to see the new Environmental Hub and the site growing 'One Million Trees for Norfolk' to support the Queen's Green Canopy project and the aim to reduce carbon emissions over the next few years.

The trees are available to individuals, Parish Councils, community groups and landowners and information on the costs and grants available can be found

on [www.norfolk.gov.uk/jubileetrees](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/jubileetrees) There are various packs of small or large trees as well as wildlife or orchard trees to choose from.

Margaret

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships  
Norfolk County Council: Hingham Division  
South Norfolk Council: Easton Ward