

Report for March Parish Council meeting

2024 budget

The Council meeting on February 20th agreed the £528million budget for 2024. It had taken a while to balance the end of year budget for the previous financial year as there was an overspend by Adult Social Services and Children's Services. The number of adults and children needing support continues to increase each year.

Fire Service

On March 5th – 7th the Fire Service is holding electrical safety events in Norwich, Gt Yarmouth and Kings Lynn. They will be testing electric blankets and portable heaters for members of the public and providing information about fire safety in the home.

Based on learning from the Grenfell Tower fire a new Aerial Ladder Appliance has been ordered. The new ALP will reach 45 metres high compared to the current one which only reaches 32 metres. This will provide better capacity when fire fighting in high rise buildings such as those in Norwich.

Highways

The Highways Capital Programme for 2024 has just been agreed. This includes £10million for Highways Maintenance Fund and £4.51million for the Road Resurfacing fund.

Flooding

DEFRA has awarded Norfolk County Council £150,000 to reduce the flooding in north Attleborough by using Natural Flood Management to reduce the flood risk by holding storm water upstream near Besthorpe. This is part of a £25million scheme to increase the national flood resilience and to slow down and store water. Diss Natural Flood Management Project, which is run by the River Waveney Trust, is also receiving funding.

It is now recognised that we need to store water to help deal with the droughts that we have in summer months.

The County Council has also allocated £1.5million to the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance for this year so that they can continue to help alleviate flooding in the county.

Parish Partnership Scheme

The Parish Partnership Scheme was launched in September 2011 and each year since then Parish Councils have been invited to bid for funding from Norfolk County Council to assist with their small highway improvements. The cost is shared 50/50. This year there were 118 bids and NCC is helping all of them. The joint investment in these schemes totals £1,040,586.

Margaret

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships

Norfolk County Council: Hingham Division

South Norfolk Council: Easton Ward