

North Walsham Town Council

Annual meeting - 22 April 2021

Report – Norfolk County Council

- 1) **New Pedestrian Crossing Happisburgh Rd:** installed late summer by the County Council after a long campaign by local councillors. Provides a safe road crossing for pupils attending the nearby North Walsham High School.
- 2) **Farman Ave:** The recent placing of double yellow lines on the Avenue following a public consultation exercise and the issuing of a Traffic Regulation Order has stopped car parking outside residents' houses. A contribution towards the cost of this was made by Cllr Seward from his local highways members budget to support contributions from residents.
- 3) **Bus Shelter Lyngate Rd:** The new much needed bus shelter was quickly erected by the Town Council after funding support from the Town Council and a contribution from Cllr Seward's local members highways budget.
- 4) **Aylsham Rd 20 mph speed limit:** The Traffic Regulation Order for this speed limit was agreed some months ago. Unfortunately, there have been delays in getting the required signs road markings installed. Highways officers are being urged to get these works done.
- 5) **On Street Parking Enforcement:** changes have been made to enable residents/visitors to park on the disused road at the junction of Manor Rd/Brick Kiln Rd. Proposals are also being made to make it easier for residents to park on the wide verge at the junction of Pound Rd/ Happisburgh Rd. This followed a very public complaint by Cllr Seward about the issuing of parking tickets after residents had received them in spite of having parked in these areas for many years without any problem.
- 6) **Lynfield Estate Improved Drainage Proposals:** In the Autumn of last year works to install underground water storage tanks to take excess surface water during periods of heavy rainfall and thus reduce the risk of properties being flooded had to be abandoned because of the high-water levels in the ground. Revised plans to overcome these problems are being devised with the aim of a new scheme to be installed in the Autumn. The Town Council will need to closely monitor future progress. Whilst funding is currently available for these works it could easily be diverted elsewhere if further problems are found and it becomes too expensive.
- 7) **New Pedestrian Crossing Norwich Rd:** A feasibility study into the possibility of a new pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Hornbeam Rd and Millfield Rd to deal with increased pedestrian crossings now that the new Hopkins Homes housing estate has been completed. The funding for the study came from local County Councillors highways budgets. The findings have not been particularly supportive of a pedestrian crossing or other measures to make it easier for residents to cross Norwich Rd in this area. The feasibility report has been placed with the Town Council. A disappointing outcome and a concerted campaign will be required to make it easier and safer for residents to cross Norwich Rd.
- 8) **More generally:** Norfolk County Council's finances remain on a 'knife edge' Like many County Councils in England the increasing demands on the Council's Adult Social Services Department are creating real pressures on the Council's finances. The Covid pandemic has added to the problem. Financial support from the Government has helped but it has not prevented rises in Council Tax or savings (in reality cuts) being made to other services.

County Cllr Eric Seward
North Walsham East