

# Liberal Democrat County Councillors Report for North Walsham Town Council

25<sup>th</sup> of January 2022

## What's Going on at the County Council?

People are being urged to check the law on the use of private e-scooters, and to only buy from reputable suppliers after testing of a number of products on the market found a lack of compliance with UK safety regulations. The sampling project led by the East of England Trading Standards Association is looking at a number of brands after national concerns were raised about electrical safety compliance as well as the illegal on-street use of private scooters. Full testing is still to be completed but Norfolk County Council Trading Standards officers are so concerned about the safe and legal use of e-scooters they are alerting consumers to the preliminary findings of the first batch of e-scooters tested. One scooter was found to be fitted with a plug that didn't meet UK safety standards as it had no fuse. Overall, three quarters of the first batch of e-scooters tested had incorrect documentation, which includes safety warnings, user instructions and traceability information.

There are a variety of grants and incentives available, to support apprentices and to support a business to start an apprenticeship. Information about all current grants and incentives can be found at: <https://apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org/grants>

## Cllr Lucy Shires – North Walsham East

### Speeding on the Brick Kiln Estate

Following my meeting with the Assistant Director for Public Health Commissioning, I met with the Road Safety Team Manager who is happy to support North Walsham in becoming a pilot for this speed awareness campaign. We will be drafting a letter, inviting the emergency services and town council to sign this before hand-delivering it to the estate. On top of this, we will also be working with Manor Road school providing free training to the staff, asking parents to sign a 'parking pledge', offering bike ability classes to our young people and performing car seat checks.

### The Town Centre

I am still awaiting confirmation of the date that we should expect to the paved area of Kings Arms Loke to be properly repaired, the 'winter months' continues to be the current position.

### Sadlers Wood

The work was undertaken by NNDC with an additional post needed to prevent the dirt bikes for misusing the woods. The SNAP panel have removed this as a priority currently but it will be revisited if the issue continues to occur.

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### Lynfield Estate Drainage

We are still waiting on a response from The Crown as to whether or not the land can be transferred to a public body which Anglian Water will then enable progress on this matter.

### Surveys

I have not undertaken any surveys this month

### Pupils awaiting neurology assessments

The estimated wait is currently a minimum of three years, this issue will be coming to HOSC in February

### North Walsham Forum

The forum has met this month and have agreed a focus of improving the wellbeing and mental health of our children within the schools and wider community, we have also secured some free wellbeing assemblies!

### Other Highways issues

A site meeting was held with the Highways team and Cllr Seward shortly before Christmas to look to resolve the parking issues on Pound Lane. We have found a potential way forward but are awaiting further confirmation that this would be acceptable to the parking enforcement team. This work will be undertaken with my highways budget.

I will be restarting pothole walks in February, I have a list of areas in need of attention already but I am happy to receive more.

### **Lucy Shires**

County Councillor for North Walsham East

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