

Liberal Democrat County Councillors Report for North Walsham Town Council

22nd of February 2022

What's Going on at the County Council?

Funding and free expert advice for micro, small and medium-sized businesses is set to continue in 2022. Businesses can find out more and apply on the Norfolk County Council website at www.norfolk.gov.uk/GoDigital

The Norfolk Coroner's Service is trying to trace the next-of-kin of Lilian Simmonds, aged 96, who resided at Scratby, Norfolk and died on 28 January 2022. There were no suspicious circumstances that led to her death. Despite carrying out extensive enquiries, no next-of-kin have been identified by the Coroner's Office. Anyone with information relating to Ms Simmonds should contact the Coroner's Office in Norwich on 01603 774773.

Tim Edwards has been appointed as Norfolk's new interim chief fire officer. The appointment follows existing Chief Fire Officer Stuart Ruff's announcement of his intention to retire from the service, which he has been at the helm of since the Spring of 2019. Chief Fire Officer Edwards joined Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service at the age of 16 in 1988 and served on various watches as an operational firefighter before rising up the ranks. Most recently he was appointed Assistant Chief Fire officer, in November 2019, and has taken responsibility for leading the assurance side of the Service.

The budget for the next financial year has been approved, sadly this means both increases in local taxation through increases to council tax and significant cuts to those budgets that support the most vulnerable in our community.

Cllr Lucy Shires – North Walsham East

Increased capacity in our GP practices

I have begun early conversations regarding the need to expand primary care in the town, especially with the future growth that the government has indicated in its housing targets.

Future SEND provision for North Walsham

On the 14th of March, Cllr Penfold and I will be meeting with the Assistant Director for SEND Strategic Improvement and the Head of Education Infrastructure and Partnership. I have requested this meeting to ask that North Walsham is considered as a location for a new SEND school in future planning.

Speeding on the Brick Kiln Estate

I am meeting with the Road Safety Team Manager on Thursday the 24th of February to receive an update of this project.

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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 and is clearly coming to a point where we are entering spring.

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 due to carrying out extensive pothole and drainage walks across the town.

Pupils awaiting neurology assessments

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

North Walsham Forum

The forum will meet on the 10th of March.

Other Highways issues

The potential way forward found for pound lane seems to currently have stalled due to the highways legal team, I am still pushing for a solution to be found

Lucy Shires

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