

North Walsham Annual Town Meeting – April 2022

Report from County Councillor Saul Penfold

Dear Friends

I do hope you are all safe and well in what has continued to be a difficult year for us all.

It is a privilege to represent and serve the North Walsham West & Erpingham Division as its County Councillor, which I have done since being elected in May 2021. As well as North Walsham West, I also serve a further 13 parishes, from Worstead and Swanton Abbott right over to Aldborough and Wickmere and almost everything in between!

During the past year I have attended North Walsham Town Council meetings and have supported the town by providing a 'bridge' between residents and their County Council. This is something I will continue to do to the best of my ability. I have also been busy with a range of casework on behalf of local residents, and during the last year I have:

- Worked with the County Highways team to improve the road network, traffic flow and traffic and pedestrian safety of the town. This has included the successful completion of the Aylsham Road 20mph scheme and the allocation £4,000 of my Local Member Highways budget to a feasibility study into the Grammar School Road roundabout, the results of which we should know soon. This study will look at the possibility of moving the central crossing and /or roundabout to create a right hand filter lane and therefore better traffic flow down Grammar School Road, reducing congestion. It will also look at safer pedestrian access along King's Arms Street.
- Worked with County Highways on traffic and pedestrian crossing improvements to the A149/B1150 crossroads, improvements which are now planned for 2023
- Worked with Highways on a number of drainage issues and regular maintenance, such as repairing potholes
- Liaised closely with my North Norfolk District Council colleagues on the developing Heritage Action Zone and other infrastructure projects such as the new bus interchange on New Road
- Supported Cromer foodbank through kind donations provided by North Walsham supermarkets

I have represented North Walsham residents at Full Council meetings held at County Hall in Norwich and have voted on a range of important issues affecting Norfolk as a whole - including budget setting and the proposed Norwich Western Link road.

As well as my constituency work, I sit on a number of County Council committees, including the Council's Audit Committee, its Employment Committee and its Joint Museums Committee. I am also now Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat group at County Hall.

Thank you for reading my annual report and if you need to contact me at all, my phone number is 07501 353962 and my County Council email is saul.penfold.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Thank you and best wishes, Saul