

## County Councillor Report – February 2021

### Covid

A Norfolk Assistance Scheme has been set up to lend council staff to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital which has been asking for support with non-medical/clerical roles. The Fire Service is still assisting by driving ambulances, helping with the mortuary and at some vaccination centres.

Customer Services has been running the local Test and Trace system. Another service that has been supporting people living at home with Covid has been extended to support people who are having to self-isolate because Test and Trace has contacted them to inform them that they have been in contact with someone who has since developed COVID 19.

### Fire Service

The Fire Service used to visit schools to talk to children about fire safety and the older children used to attend Crucial Crew events to learn how to keep themselves safe. As this is not possible at the moment, Crucial Crew information can now be found on line and the service has launched a competition for younger children. They are inviting children to send them any questions they have about their work or the equipment they use by February 12<sup>th</sup>. The best questions will be selected and answered on film which will then be sent to schools to use on line or for home learning.

### IT equipment to support schools and education

Norfolk County Council has used their Covid Response Fund to purchase 2,000 laptops and tablets for the Every Child On Line campaign. The council is working with Norfolk Community Foundation and the EDP to try to ensure children's education does not suffer due to their lack of equipment/digital disadvantage. Lotus Cars, based at Hethel, has also donated 625 Chromebooks to the scheme.

### Flooding

Several committees, including Scrutiny, have considered the problems and reasons for the recent flooding. The causes differed across the villages.

It was decided to employ three more staff to help deal with the current issues and earmark £1.5million capital funding for repair and preventative work.

It was also agreed to set up a county wide committee, led by Lord Dannett, to bring together local council services and organisations involved with water to consider how to prevent future problems and help parishes prepare for dealing with future emergencies when they arise.

Highways and Environmental Services are already looking at blockages and damage caused by the floods and looking for the causes.

Both Norfolk County council and South Norfolk Council would be grateful for any information about what may have caused the flooding in your areas.

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury