

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT HINGHAM AND DEOPHAM 2022-2023

South Norfolk Council has made big strides in the last year helping the District address a whole variety of challenges including the recovery from Covid, the cost of energy and general cost of living, and the impact of Ukrainian Refugees.

Once again we have been able to present a balanced, affordable budget that does not draw from reserves. As we move forward we have approved a capital budget of £113million whilst freezing council tax once more in spite of making no cuts to the services we offer. This year we're committing an extra £1.3million pounds for those in need so we can continue to support 500 households a month address the cost of living and the challenges life sends.

Here in Hingham and Deopham we have continued to deliver local schemes. Last year we gave a £2000 grant to the Hingham Playing Field Association to purchase an industrial standard Cooker Hood for the kitchen to further enhance their facilities. We also gave a £15,000 grant to Deopham Parish Council to enable the purchase of badly needed children's play equipment for the village.

Looking ahead we are planning more widespread schemes through the District:-

- We have £8million in the capital program to further develop Norwich Science Park, creating even more jobs in the world of genetics and genomics.
- We continue to match housing growth with infrastructure investment. Last year we invested in a £1m town centre improvement in Harleston, and are continuing to develop a plan to enhance Wymondham in collaboration with Wymondham Town Council.

We are already very energy efficient, having saved 700 tonnes of carbon since we began measuring our footprint. Soon we will be moving to our new more efficient low carbon building which has 2500 solar panels and will be using 84% less energy plus installing air source heat pumps for further efficiency.

In addition to considering the green environment, we have continued to help residents keep fit and healthy:-

- Investing over £2m in the Diss Swimming Pool adding air source heat pumps and other improvements.
- Working with the doctors and NHS to deliver a new surgery for Hethersett.
- Our staff continue to provide a 'District Direct' service in the NNUH, preparing recovering patients for timely discharge to an adapted home.

I have represented the District for the last 12 years and have done my best to support residents that need my help. I am saying goodbye at the upcoming election and hope that your elected choice of representative continues to enjoy the role as much as I have.

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