

## SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT HINGHAM AND DEOPHAM 2021-2022

Everyone hoped that 2021-2022 would enable us to recover from an exhausting pandemic and get on with life. Whilst there were some changes, this year has been just as challenging. The staff at South Norfolk continue to provide our residents with a fantastic service and adapt to the needs of the community, however the war raging in Ukraine means we all face new challenges in the weeks and months ahead.

As our residents expect we have finished the year with a balanced budget which enables us to move forward maintain and where necessary enhance the services we provide. As we now look forward, we need to: -

- Meet the demands for our services from our vulnerable residents
- Support our businesses and the economy
- Aim to Positively prepare the District for a post carbon future
- Critically keep our Council up to date

Many of you will be concerned, as I am, about the future of the many refugees from Ukraine who are due to arrive in the District. South Norfolk residents have been magnificent in their response and we are poised to receive the largest cohort of displaced families in Norfolk. Officers are working hard visiting the homes offered to ensure that not only are they safe and secure but suit the needs of both parties. The last thing that anyone wants is for refugee placements to fail due to lack of preparation.

Many residents are also concerned about the implication of the sharp rise in the cost of living. As always, our Help Hub at Long Stratton can assist with any problems. Partners are on hand to help with housing, welfare, health and safeguarding to name a few but can also assist on any other issues however small. Residents will find the access details easily available on the South Norfolk website.

In addition to all these concerns it is important that we support our economy and local businesses whilst trying to prepare for a post-carbon future. As a council we are trying to modify the buildings we have – particularly our leisure centres – with added insulation and Solar panel where appropriate. We are also reviewing together with our partners in Broadland Council whether both our head offices are fit for the future.

Whilst these are some of the long term aims, we will not forget our grass roots and continue to provide clubs and societies with much needed grant funding to enhance local facilities where we can. I urge anyone needing help with a project to talk to me about both my ward fund and the Community action fund which has been increased this year. 2022 is the year that our glorious Queen Elizabeth celebrates her magnificent 70 years on the throne. Many communities are planning special events to mark this wonderful event and we have offered Parish Councils funding to assist. These are just some of the funds available.

Hopefully the above gives you some idea of the services South Norfolk provide in addition to collecting the Bins and processing Planning Applications.

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