

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch

Report for September 2021

Grass Cutting: The second cut of the year to highway verges and junctions was due to start on August 9th and when completed should have addressed all the inadequacies of the first cut of the year which was, quite frankly, a shambles. Please let me know if there are still problems in your area with the standard of the cut.

One Million Trees: Norfolk County Council (NCC) acknowledges that trees are a vital resource in combating climate change alongside rewilding for carbon sequestration. As reported previously NCC have committed resources to work with communities, landowners and partners to plant 1 million trees over 5 years which must amount to a net increase. NCC's tree planting scheme will work in harmony with the unique "Queens Green Canopy" initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. There are packs of trees and hedging plants available to parishes to "kick start" the project. If there is any interest, please contact me for further detail on how to apply. The planting season runs from November 2021 to March 2022.

Offshore Transmission Network (OTN): There has been a lot of discussion between our local MPs in both Norfolk and Suffolk and government ministers about the number and length of cable routes crossing both counties bringing wind generated electricity to connection points on land. To minimise ecological and commercial damage to the countryside an OTN has been proposed. The OTN would allow connection of all future wind farm electricity output to a cable system lying offshore which would only require one overland route to a connection point with the National Grid. NCC have been involved in the initial Offshore Consultation Project in 2020 and are currently responding to an Ofgem consultation which is asking for comments on proposals to amend regulations to allow the use of an OTN.

Hazardous Waste Amnesty: There is to be a hazardous waste amnesty at NCC's local recycling centres as follows; Dereham on September 18th and 19th (open 9am to 5pm) and Hempton (Fakenham) on 1st, 2nd and 3rd October (open 9am to 4pm). Details of the which items of hazardous waste are acceptable is available on NCC's website.

Highways: Despite the lack of revenue funding in NCCs coffers there is still some future capital available to put towards some highway schemes such as

resurfacing (not surface dressing) and junction and other highway improvements. If you have any work that you would wish to be carried out, please let me know and I will submit the suggestion for inclusion in the long term capital budget.

Mark Kiddle-Morris