Cllr Fran Whymark Annual Report

You’re on mute, Zoom, Teams, et cetera, et cetera, have all become part of daily life over the last year. There is no doubt that it has been an extraordinary year for everyone. The recent death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, really brought it home to many people, recognising the loss so many of us have felt.

The worst of times bring out the best in people. Without the community groups supporting our most vulnerable it could have been a lot worse for so many. Broadland District Council (BDC) continue to work with community groups across our district, supporting them to continue helping our communities.

25% of the adult population has now had both vaccinations and over 70% of all adults have had their first Covid vaccination. Seeing what is happening in India now shows that we cannot be complacent. ‘Nobody’s safe until everybody’s safe’ is so true.

Remember you can get free Covid tests from your pharmacy. If you test positive or have Covid symptoms please isolate. There is support available should you need it.

Remember, Hands – Face – Space. We will get through this working together.

At BDC the new Housing Portal is now up and running. Everyone on the housing register has access to all available properties 24/7 and can bid on properties in Broadland or South Norfolk. Kickstart is making job placements available for 16 to 24-year-olds on Universal Credit. Work4All is there to help anyone who is unemployed get back into work. We know the last year has been tough and the year ahead could be difficult too, so we are trying to support our residents back into work.

At Norfolk County Council (NCC) I am pleased that the People and Communities Select Committee has continued its work looking at improving Adult and Children’s Social Care and Public Health. Over the last few months we have been looking at how we improve the quality and supply of care for young and old alike. I believe we will see positive changes in the future.

And NCC policy for Extra Care Independent Living is starting to increase the quality and choice for older people. The show home at Fakenham is now open and Herondale in Acle will open in summer 2022 and a new unit has been approved in Little Plumstead near Rackheath. We are also testing assistive technology, such as the Carephone which allows people to contact carers or family with just one touch. Maintaining contact for those who may have difficulties using other technology.

Two new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Schools will be opening soon. A school for children with social emotional and mental health difficulties will open in Great Yarmouth in Autumn 2021 and a school for children on the autistic spectrum will open in Fakenham in January 2022.

Two new recycling centres are under construction, showing our commitment to increase our recycling rates and care for our environment.

And finally, as most of my correspondence is about Highways, NCC have committed to spending £10 million repairing potholes over the coming year. Each County Councillor will also have £10,000 to spend on improving the roads in their area this year.