

## District Councillors Report for SHX AGM

Covid Restrictions apart there have been significant changes in operations at South Norfolk Council over the past year. There has been a move to combine many office functions with those of Broadland Council. For example, there is now a single combined Planning Department. Residents therefore may find that they have to deal with officials from Broadland Council for certain functions. There is to be a common website and email function which hopefully will make these processes relatively seamless. The Council offices are called The House and The Lodge respectively.

Hard copies of bin emptying calendars have not been issued so far this year. Details are published on the Website. For those who do not have internet access a hard copy can be obtained by telephoning the Ketteringham Depot. Changes to the rotas are expected to be made later this year, when hard copies of calendars may be available.

After 6<sup>th</sup> May all public meetings will have to be held face to face. Video conferencing will not be permitted for these. There will be a hiatus until 21<sup>st</sup> June, because some restrictions will still apply. The Councils own AGM has been brought forward to 26<sup>th</sup> April to accommodate this.

The Council is working towards restoring its office functions to “normality”. This may take many weeks and there may be permanent changes in this respect.

The grant system is to continue. Applications for The Community Action Fund grants are open. And must be made by 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Nigel Legg

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### Annual overview

1. Over the two years since I was elected, I want to thank the parish councillors and residents for their support and interesting issues. The main topics I have dealt with in Stoke have been around planning, funding, traffic, the playing field and dog mess. Covid has clearly dominated the last year, with all council work being affected but especially the Help Hub and Finance dept. who had to ensure all those who needed it, received government help and access to care and support. We await the outcome of coming out of lockdown.

### April 2021

2. **STOP Press - the Community Action Fund 2021 is now open for applications.** You can access the application form and all associated guidance notes on the South Norfolk Council website [here](#). Please note that the deadline for all applications is Tuesday 1 June. If you are considering submitting an application, but have questions regarding the project’s eligibility, or the application process, the Communities Team are on hand to provide guidance and can be contacted on 01508 533914. Alternatively, please email Matt Allen with your queries [mallen@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:mallen@s-norfolk.gov.uk); The CAF Panel will meet on Friday 2 July to consider applications.

3. We debated **planning & floodin**g issues at the Scrutiny meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Various recommendations were made and the subject will be revisited later in the year.
4. I attended a related **floodin**g meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> March where Anglian Water and the Emergency Services and Lord Dannatt spoke (he is heading the county flooding enquiry).
5. After May 7<sup>th</sup> **no Local Government Zoom meetings will be legal**. The LGA is seeking a legal ruling on this as it effectively means for most councils no meetings can happen in May and June until the Covid restrictions are lifted. There has been greater public participation in council business since the access to Zoom, Teams, YouTube, FB etc. There is a consultation on the Ministry of Communities & Local Government website until June if you wish to comment. SNC AGM Full Council has been brought forward to 26<sup>th</sup> April.
6. The **County and PCC Elections** are on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Polling stations will be open but might be slow as the staff are taking extra hygiene precautions.

Any problems with any of the above please contact me. Best wishes, Vivienne

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As you may be aware from 7th May zoom and other Cam linked meetings will no longer be permissible.

AGM meetings must be held before the 6th May or after the 17th May.

The concept of 'clinically extremely vulnerable ' is also no longer active and Council meetings should be encouraged in covid secure places. Meetings are requested to be put off until after June 21st where possible.

Hopefully these measures are relatively short term and we can get back to normal ASAP.

Gerald Francis