

District Councillor's Report. Martin Wilby, May 2015.

South Norfolk Council is made up of 46 district councillors representing 119 parishes across all of South Norfolk. Following the recent election the political make up is that there are now 40 conservative and six liberal councillors. In my ward, which covers Dickleburgh, Rushall, The Tivetshalls and Great Moulton the results were as follows: Anne John, 100, Sam Morgan, 156, Pam Reekie, 223, and Martin Wilby, 1043 so I would like to thank everyone for their support, and look forward to working with all of the parish councils in my ward, and working for all of the residents, in my ward. Currently I am Deputy Leader being responsible for Stronger Communities, which includes grants for communities, Leisure Facilities, our LINK Magazine, and working with businesses. I am also involved with our Community Awards, which has been running for the last three years, recognising the valuable work done by the many volunteers that make South Norfolk the fantastic place that it is. I am also involved with the South Norfolk on Show day (this year on Sunday 5th July) where we put on a free event to showcase all that is good in South Norfolk so you are all welcome to come along.

I get asked to help with all sorts of problems, such as planning issues, dog fouling, and litter, but I am also able to support local projects in our villages through funding of grants from my local member allowance of £1,000 annually, which in my first year I supported Dickleburgh War Memorial restoration, Rushall new tables for their functions, Great Moulton village sign restoration and in Tivetshall £250 towards village hall improvements. So from June 1st this year £1,000 is available again and I would like to distribute £250 to each of my 4 villages. Another grant available is through our Local Action Fund where £30,000 is available to each of our 5 neighbourhood areas so if you know of any major projects I can help you to apply.

At South Norfolk over the last few years we have frozen council tax for our residents, we have invested in commercial property, which gives us a good return on our capital. We have created a company called Blue Sky Developments, which is now building a mixture of residential and commercial properties on our land at Poringland, and soon at the Cygnet House site in Long Stratton. We are pushing ahead with the much-needed Long Stratton Bypass, and roundabout at the Hempnall crossroads that will make Long Stratton, and the A140, a much better and safer place, not just for local residents but for all traffic users.

We are investing £4m in our three leisure centres at Wymondham, Diss, and Long Stratton; we recognise that our residents deserve the best possible and most up to date facilities, which also keep us more fit and healthy. Payback on our investment is expected to be in five or six years.

One of our priorities is to keep South Norfolk clean and tidy. So we have a fleet of up-to-date Bin Lorries, Road Cleaners, and Road Sweepers, and we support our local communities to get involved with Litter Picks and this year we have had over 80 groups take part, so I would like to thank them.

Finally I would like to thank and pay tribute to all the staff at SNC, who put South Norfolk first. It's a great place to work and I enjoy working with them.

Thank you. Martin