

## **District/County Councillor Report – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**

As you know Covid-19 continues to blight our lives. You will all have seen the news over the weekend and will be preparing for a 'lockdown' from Thursday this week. Unfortunately this is necessary to avoid the NHS being unable to cope with the rise in cases going in to hospital and the unfortunate increase in intensive care and deaths resulting from this. Infection rates are still relatively low in our area but are rising rapidly. Predictions from Norfolk Public Health and the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are that we will see a peak here after Christmas. Breckland has seen a significant increase in Watton, linked to the pork processing plant. The real concern is that the NHS will be overwhelmed, leading to other healthcare services being reduced, which none of us wish to see.

Norfolk County Council (NCC) and Broadland District Council (BDC) will be here to support the vulnerable and offer help if you are struggling. If you are furloughed you will get 80% of your current wages. If you are working and asked to self isolate for 14 days you will be able to get £500 from BDC, there are also discretionary payments if you are getting paid but less than normal. You can ring BDC on 01508 533933 for help or financial support. NCC is providing £200,000 to the Norfolk Community Foundation, to support families and vulnerable people facing hardship this Christmas. Before the Christmas scheme launches, applications for help can be made to the Norfolk Assistance Scheme on the NCC website - <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-for-living-independently/money-and-benefits/norfolk-assistance-scheme> - or, for those who don't have internet access, by calling 01603 223392 option 5.

Please remember; Hands-Face-Space. Focus on the basics, work from home if possible. Remember anyone can catch this virus and pass it on. Many people are not showing any symptoms but that will not stop you catching it. Take care and stay safe.

Fran

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