

As Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing I am very aware of the impact COVID-19 is having upon local residents. I am pleased that it is generally recognised that we need to support people who are lonely and having difficulties with their mental health. There is real concern that many professionals, particularly those in the frontline, will struggle with their mental health and may need specialist help with difficulties such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the future.

Wellbeing Norfolk and Waveney have regular online events to support our residents, including virtual quizzes and coffee mornings. More information at www.wellbeingnands.co.uk/norfolk/ or follow them on Facebook or Twitter.

Every Mind Matters has a 24/7 helpline at 0808 1963494 or www.everymindmatters.co.uk . There is specialist support for 11-25 year olds at www.kooth.com .

Going forward, Broadland District Council (BDC) and South Norfolk Council (SNC) Communities Team is actively engaging with the many volunteer groups, who have been supporting their communities during the pandemic. It is hoped that the fantastic work undertaken by the groups will continue, with Community Connectors helping to train volunteers. BDC will support this momentum to help neighbours and friends continue to help each other.

COVID-19 will continue to impact upon our lives for some time yet. Norfolk County Council are asking people who have any symptoms (high temperature, a new continuous cough or a change to, or loss of, sense of smell/taste) to get tested. Our nearest testing centre is at Postwick Park and Ride. If you have symptoms isolate (your whole family) and contact NHS at www.NHS.uk/coronavirus or ring 119 for an appointment. Keyworkers can also email: NHScovidtesting@nnuh.nhs.uk . Remain isolated until you have the result of your test and for at least 7 days.

Central Government has given financial support to both Districts and County Councils. An additional £105m is being given to Districts to continue the 'Everyone In' initiative to ensure rough sleepers have a place to stay. BDC and SNC have been very successful with FIRST Step over the last year, starting in August 2019. We have recently employed another worker to support people when they are in accommodation to maintain their tenancy and address any health or dependency difficulties.

Following a campaign by Marcus Rashford (Manchester Utd player) government has given Counties £120m for a Summer Food Fund. This will ensure children are not going hungry over the summer holidays, before they return to school in September.

£1 billion is also being made available for a 'catch up' package. £650m for schools in England and a further £350 for a national tutoring programme to help our most disadvantaged children.

On Saturday 4th July pubs, restaurants, playgrounds and some leisure facilities have re-opened. In Norfolk libraries will start opening from Monday 6th July. People are asked to continue to social distance, wash/sanitise hands regularly and wear face masks in public places. Things are improving but as we have seen with Leicester an increase in confirmed cases could lead to another lockdown.

Locally I am very pleased that not only day boats but overnight hire boats can restart also. Tourism is very important to the Norfolk economy (worth £3.25 billion) let's hope our economy can benefit positively for the rest of the summer.

Anti-social behaviour (both on and off the water) has been a problem for many of us. On Friday 26th June I visited Coltishall Common with our MP Jerome Mayhew. A party had to be broken up at 11pm by over a dozen police officers that evening. There have also been incidents at Caen Meadow and Salhouse Broad. Jerome has been in contact with Norfolk Police and I have had discussions with both Beat Managers. I have also contacted the Broads Authority and their Head of Ranger Services is aware and will take steps to address any issues.

If I can be of any help please contact me.

Take care.

Martin Murrell, District Councillor

Fran Whymark, District and County Councillor.