

District/County Councillor Report – February 2021

The good news is that the lockdown appears to be working and reducing transmission of Coronavirus. Currently the infection rates have dropped and the number of patients in hospital is now under 700. Additionally, the number of people with flu has dropped by 95%, year on year, showing that most people are staying at home and avoiding contact with others. Vaccinations are being rolled out across the County which will help to reduce the infection rates even further. Unfortunately over 1000 people have died across Norfolk of Coronavirus so far, we are moving in the right direction but still need to continue following the rules.

Community Support

Following the announcement of the Tier 5 lockdown our community COVID-19 support, through the Help Hub, has stepped up again and is working with established community groups to ensure our most vulnerable residents are supported. We are in a much better position than we were in April with nine months of learning to draw upon. There was confusion with who to contact before so there will be one main number 01508 533933 for residents to call and one email address helphub@s-norfolk.gov.uk. We will be extending the operating hours of our Help Hub to between 08:15 and 22:00 Monday to Friday. For the next three weeks we will also be open Saturday and Sunday and then as the demand prescribes.

Further information is on our website: <https://www.broadland.gov.uk/coronavirus>. This includes information about business support grants. If your business has been closed due to Coronavirus regulations there is support available. Email business@broadland.gov.uk or call 01603 980441.

Keeping our residents warm

In July 2020, the Chancellor announced £2 billion of support through the Green Homes Grant to save households money, cut carbon and create green jobs. Targeting those in fuel poverty, poorly insulated properties and on low incomes.

BDC on behalf of the Norfolk Warm Homes Partnership have also successfully secured an additional £1.24m to improve 180 homes by 31 March 2021. We have just secured an additional £1.7m to distribute during 2021. Grants will be available across the County administered by BDC. Eligible properties will have an EPC rating of E, F or G rated and be occupied by people with a total household income of £30,000 or less. For owner occupiers, grants can fully fund the work, up to £10k. For private sector rented, grants can cover 2/3 of the total cost of works, up to £5k.

Information about the grant funding can be found at: www.norfolkwarmhomes.org.uk or you can call 01603 430103.

National Apprenticeships Week starts on 8th February. Currently Norfolk County Council have 320 apprentices and are looking for more. For more information about opportunities available go to [Apprenticeships at Norfolk County Council - Norfolk County Council](#).

Cllr Fran Whymark
Wroxham Division
Fran.whymark.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk