

## **District Councillor's report to Bungay and Wainford Ward, January 2021**

The Community Partnerships Board meeting took place at the beginning of December. A Transport Task Group had been set up at the previous meeting and we received a report from Nick Khan, ESC Strategic Director. The task group concluded a twin track approach is appropriate, as in short and medium term. Short term, they will identify and seed or match fund pilots and trial projects to test the 'proof of context', assessing their viability if rolled out district wide. Also, to develop a three-year transport work programme to be overseen by the Task Group and backed up by a project manager; EDF has offered a part time member of staff to fill this role, at no cost to ESC. Medium to long term, to undertake a study of transport and travel issues and gaps in ES to provide rigorous data and intelligence on which to base future work, to work with strategic partners to redesign parts of the system and to lobby collectively for change. The Board agreed £40k be given to a KATCH EV taxi bus trial in Framlingham, Wickham Market and Campsea Ashe. £80k was allocated to the ES travel & transport Improvement programme.

I have also attended an Audit & Governance meeting where we discussed the Corporate Risk Strategy, Capital Strategy and the Internal Audit Charter amongst other things. At Scrutiny we have had a formal meeting to receive a report on the Council's Capital programme for 2021/22 to 2024/25 and an Extraordinary meeting to discuss recommendations regarding the review of the COVID response.

So, we came to Christmas, which was for many rather traumatic. I hadn't realised about the floods until about 7.30 on Christmas Eve, when the Chief Executive, Stephen Baker called. He said Council staff and the emergency services had worked well together, evacuated those who needed it to relatives' and everything was under control. At daybreak on Christmas morning, I decided to check the bridges and went towards Wainford first, but the road was impassable. I then went to the Staithe, where the Fire Brigade was pumping out a house. I offered the use of the Community centre for cooking, sleeping or storage, but the residents said they were OK. Late Christmas Day I had a call from the fire brigade to ask for help in getting sandbags to Bungay and after sharing the information with Bungay Assistant Clerk, Eddie Rosier, Tony Sprake a local builder set off to the Environment Agency depot at Haddiscoe for them. I drove too and we dropped off one load at the Staithe, he went back for more for Ditchingham Dam. On the Monday, Peter Aldous and David Ritchie came to Bungay and we visited all the houses in Bridge Street and Outney Rd which had been affected, to offer help if needed. I also checked at Wainford and with residents in Nethergate Street. The majority of the water had flowed northwards, into Ditchingham. Most people made their own arrangements with their insurance companies, but I arranged for a skip to one address and Norse collected carpets and rubbish from the Staithe and the Scout hut last Wednesday. I also checked with the Environment Agency whether the sluices had worked as expected and I was assured they had.

I hope we have a better 2021.

**Judy Cloke, 3/1/21**