

## **2021 Annual Council Meetings District Councillor Report**

### **For Godmanchester, Hemingford and the Offords Ward**

This was certainly not an ordinary year nor the report we would have expected to provide as we have all experienced many changes since last May. Although we, like many of you, have adjusted to lockdowns, working from home, home schooling and delivering key worker roles as individual councillors, we have also done what we have been able to in support of community's pandemic activity. We have been astounded by how each community pulled together to offer support and practical help, showing just how resilient we are. Your parish and Town Councils have achieved a great deal in spite of the challenges of covid and we have been pleased to support where we can.

We worked with the District Council to help get support and information into communities as the pandemic unfolded and have been working throughout as the District Council has responded to ensure key services have been delivered and pandemic specific issues affecting us have been addressed. They have administered government grants and we have helped those struggling to access these resolve their issues. We have taken up case work related to local business and sought to ensure that help and support has been provided wherever possible. District Councilors across all parties have worked together throughout, showing that we are all people who are passionate about our communities first and foremost.

Nothing prepared us for the events around Christmas when exceptional rainfall falling on saturated ground caused surface water flooding followed by river flooding. We worked round the clock to try to direct help where it was needed at the time and have worked in the aftermath on case work for individuals affected. We are participating in the strategic review that seeks to stop a repetition taking place and have ensured that follow up meetings with the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and County have included parishes where homes were inundated. This work is ongoing, and we are still awaiting sight of the strategic flooding reports that these agencies will be producing. On the ground, there have been site visits and work plans agreed to address ditches, water courses and road levels. The unpalatable message has been that all of us in low lying communities need to be ready in case it should happen again, but we are expecting those who can help to reduce the risk through maintenance, to do so.

Some councillor activities haven't changed in spite of Covid – case work relating to planning, trees and environmental health, these being some of the areas that were not given dispensation to pause by Government. Our support has been available in a business-as-usual style. We have greatly missed the face-to-face aspect of our District Councilor roles but have attended virtual council meetings, talked to residents by phone and been available on email. You have received our reports month on month, and we have waved at some of you whilst out and about when restrictions have permitted to do so. Like you, we are very pleased to see an easing of restrictions and a gradual and cautious return to some normality.

As always, we work for you year-round. We can be contacted directly, should you need our assistance:

[Sarah.Wilson@huntingdonshire.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Wilson@huntingdonshire.org.uk) 01480 412747

[Mike.Grice@huntingdonshire.org.uk](mailto:Mike.Grice@huntingdonshire.org.uk) 01480 383213

[Sarah.Conboy@huntingdonshire.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Conboy@huntingdonshire.org.uk) 07831 807208