

Report from your County Councillor, Cllr Steffan Aquarone



District Councillor for Gresham Ward

Following the local elections, I am delighted that Callum Ringer has been elected as your district councillor.

I have worked closely with Callum for a number of years as a parish councillor and local campaigner. I know he will be an excellent representative for our area.

New County Council Administration

Meanwhile the County Council leadership has changed and Kay Mason Billig is now leader, with a new cabinet for the forthcoming year.

Norfolk County Council Action on sewerage discharges

There has been a lot of media coverage of the shocking levels of sewerage discharge into rivers and seas by water companies.

In the absence of robust government action, I'm pleased to say that Norfolk County Council resolved on 10th May to explore what action could be taken including whether the council could fine water companies through its own powers, and require compensation for losses to businesses. This motion was passed unanimously.

More funding for potholes and road repairs

Norfolk's Highways team achieves a huge amount with a continually diminishing budget. The backlog of road repairs is growing - both in terms of cost and list length. Norfolk's road network significantly over-indexes on miles per capita, the proportion of C and unclassified roads, and B roads being relied on for high volume trunk roads in the route hierarchy. Despite securing over £6m from a "pothole repair" fund, general reduction in funding to councils from government has hit Highways budgets particularly hard.

I was therefore pleased when a Full Council motion, which I proposed on Tuesday, was passed unanimously (albeit with a number of diluting amendments) resolving to petition the Under Secretary of State for more funding for Norfolk's road repair and maintenance needs.