

A short report

A short report this month because our minds and energies have been on other things and there have been few council meetings.

Work in Progress

The main thing I've been putting pressure on for is the revised speed limits for Aslacton, for which the TRO is about to run out. We now have a date in July for the signs to be installed. I am not going to believe it till I see it. Other things that I have to keep chasing about are the signs for Tabernacle Lane in Fornsett and the work for Furze Green. I am assured that these are in progress.

It never stops raining, so I have no idea how we are going to deal with the problem of flooding and water on the roads. But the good news is that work is about to start on the completely new drainage scheme for Bunwell. Our district councillor is convinced that this is all credit to me. I'm hoping that it's evidence that we do have some power, despite appearances. The down side is that Bunwell Street will be closed for 11 weeks so diversions will be irritating for all concerned.

Norwich to Tilbury Pylons

The deadline has been extended, so I haven't yet completed my submission. I'm also keen to help our new Green MP to prepare a good consultation submission, and will ask my work experience student to prepare a dossier of information to help with that.

My main points will be a request for a pause to consider the offshore options, especially with a view to their long term value for money and contribution to reducing the carbon footprint of the infrastructure; a request for a proper study of the Tas valley to establish the vulnerability of sites and habitats in the wetlands at the north of my division; and a plea for more focus on what's best, not what's cheapest.

This week:

We have Infrastructure & Development committee on Wednesday. The other task is to prepare for the decision at Full Council about whether the County Council should continue with its plan for a "devolution deal". Since the devolution deal was offered under the previous government, and seemed attractive because of government cuts to local authority funding, it is unclear whether it is still a wise thing to do or whether in fact the necessary funds for local authorities would be better obtained if we remain as we are, now that we have a labour government and commitments which will be interested in ensuring that regions are not left behind and driven to the kind of despair and division that we have seen over recent years. Might it be better to scrap the plans for a directly elected leader, before it is too late, and say no to the inadequate funding (but better than nothing) offer that went with it. I would be grateful if Parishes could give me their views on this matter. We need to speak, vote and propose amendments in full council on 23rd July. The Green Group is formulating its position in discussions this week.

Parish Partnership bids

The information on this scheme has now come out so do consider whether you have something you'd like to do that would qualify.

Other information:

After the election:

Tuesday 9 July 2024 – New Parliament will be summoned to meet, election of the speaker and swearing-in of members.

Wednesday 17 July 2024 – State opening of Parliament.

Contact me on

Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk for Council-related business. See also my Facebook page [here](#).

Catherine Rowett

8th July 2024