

**Margaret Stone**

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**- County Councillor for the Clavering Division**

**Parish Council Report – July 2017**

**Key Issues**



## **Local Member Highways Budget**

### **Background**

A new fund has been created to provide each local Member with an annual budget of £6,000 to be used on highway work within each financial year. This offers flexibility to progress small highway projects at Members discretion based upon local need.

### **What can the money be spent on?**

The funding can be spent on a wide variety of highway related aspects. Typical uses could include:

- Advisory signs i.e. “Unsuitable for HGV’s and advisory speed limits i.e. 20mph signs outside schools would be possible.
- Small footway extensions and modifications
- More significant work to public rights of way
- Minor drainage work
- New non regulatory signs and replacement of existing signs and road markings. Possibly some new road markings such as “SLOW”.
- Feasibility work or investigations that cannot be resourced by existing front line budgets.
- Minor traffic management projects including Traffic Regulation Order related works. However, it should be noted that these works can cost between £3,000 and £5,000 each and may be difficult to deliver within a 12 month timescale.
- Day rates for gangs to carry out additional maintenance to areas of the highways that a local Member would like improved i.e. public footpaths or verges.
- Other highway improvements – improved visibility splays, junction improvements, kerbing, work in conservation areas.
- Capital grants to parish councils for highway maintenance related equipment such as grasscutting or footway gritting equipment.

### **What is excluded from the fund?**

Illuminated signs, street lighting or reflective bollards are not included in this initiative. This aligns with NCC energy saving objective of 50% by 2020, based on 2007 baseline.

In addition, the budget of £6,000 is not to be exceeded. Any schemes which are likely to exceed this amount will not be taken forward, unless other funding streams are confirmed.

### **Who can help provide advice on what can be delivered and how?**

Your local Highways Area team can provide the necessary help and advice on what the engineering solutions to any given problem may be. These options will be location specific and will usually involve a site visit to fully understand the issues and identify the optimum solution.

### **Who records and monitors spend?**

Your local Highways Area team will provide an initial cost estimate and if delivery is agreed, will then monitor construction / installation costs. Given the nature of construction, there may be unexpected or unforeseen costs which will need to be managed within the £6,000 allocation.

### **Who can deliver the proposals?**

It is expected that the majority of works would be undertaken by Norfolk County Council and its approved supply chain. Grants made to direct to Town and Parish Councils would follow that Councils procurement rules.

### **Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils**

I am delighted to inform you that due to the success of working in partnership with Parish/Town Councils for the last six years the Parish Partnership Scheme Initiative will again be repeated in the financial year 2018/19. Further supporting information, including possible funding sources for your share of the bid, is available on our website (click on [this link](#)).

The County Council has again allocated £300,000 on a 50/50 basis to fund schemes put forward by Town and Parish Councils to deliver projects that are priorities for local communities. We are particularly keen to encourage and support first-time bids.

Full details Should have already been forwarded to all Parish Councils.

**03 July 2017**

### **Norfolk Trading Standards officers urge people to register appliances so they receive vital safety information**

Norfolk residents are being reminded of the importance of registering electrical appliances so that they can be notified by manufacturers of any product recalls.

Norfolk County Council's Trading Standards Service has been visiting residents of the county's ten high-rise blocks to offer public reassurance and home safety advice in light of the Grenfell Tower blaze.

Working with Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, Trading Standards officers have been talking about safety in the home, including ensuring smoke alarms are fitted and regularly tested, that sockets are not overloaded and that appliances are safe. They have also been reminding residents of flats of the importance to keep communal areas and fire exits clear.

If residents are not at home, the Trading Standards team has been leaving a note for them about current manufacturers' product recalls.

"When you buy electrical appliances, there is usually paperwork to fill in to register the appliance. Not only does this cover the warranty, it also means that if the manufacturer issues a product recall, they can get directly in touch with you," said Brian Chatten of Norfolk Trading Standards.

There is a national website which gives details of all product recalls. To check if any of your appliances are affected, visit [www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk](http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk) and click on the Product Recalls tab.

The Grenfell Tower fire was believed to have started due to a problem with a Hotpoint fridge freezer. Hotpoint has advised that, as a precaution, anybody with a Hotpoint fridge freezer, model number FF175BP (white) or FF175BG (grey) should call [0800 316 3826](tel:08003163826) or visit [www.hotpointservice.co.uk/fridgefreezer](http://www.hotpointservice.co.uk/fridgefreezer) to register their details for further updates.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is continuing its public reassurance work, alongside Trading Standards, district councils and housing associations, visiting residents in high rise and medium rise blocks to offer safety advice. They are also carrying out operational checks to buildings which have cladding.

Councillor Margaret Dewsbury, Chairman of Norfolk County Council's Communities Committee, said: "The safety of the public is our top priority and Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, Trading Standards and other agencies have been working tirelessly to reassure the public since the Grenfell Tower fire.

"Important safety checks continue and residents can help by heeding the advice to ensure new appliances are registered so they can be notified in the event of any product recalls."

Members of the public can call Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service on [0800 917 8137](tel:08009178137) to arrange for a free Home Fire Risk Check

Local Member Protocol – Trading Standards Update – Removal of Avian Influenza controls put in place around a premises in Scole, near Diss, Norfolk.

5th July 2017 Today the remaining Avian Influenza 10K Surveillance Zone restrictions around the infected premises, near Diss, South Norfolk, have been removed.

Public Health England advises that the risk to public health from the virus is very low and the Food Standards Agency is clear that bird flu does not pose a food safety risk for UK consumers.

Members of the public can report dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, to the Defra helpline ([03459 33 55 77](tel:03459335577)).