

Parish Council meeting January 2017  
Margaret Stone  
Norfolk county councillor Clavering  
[margaret.stone@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.stone@norfolk.gov.uk)  
01508 499 389



County Council . Everything is now concentrating on the budget which has to be set next month. Cannot set budget with deficit.

- Adult Social Care: Today with 2 more months of the financial year left, we are already £11 million over budget!
- Services budgeted at £247 million 2016-17 estimated to be £258 millions by March
- WHY

Adult social care is costing more as demands on the service are increasing. People live much longer, which is great if you are healthy. However many live with long term conditions or dementia and Social Services help to look after those unable to provide for themselves. Many also provide for their own care, even if it means selling their homes in order that do so.

More people with learning disabilities live until they are well into their 70's where as even 20-30 years ago few would live beyond 30. Many are being supported by increasingly elderly parents are needing social services to take over that caring role. Life expectation has improved, which is great but providing quality of life for longer is inevitably costly.

Hospitals at saturation point as many elderly who are physically fit but unable to cope at home because of dementia or risks of falling, may occupy acute beds . This impacts on waiting lists for hospital beds

. Residential Care costs are between £500- £1000 week for 24 hour care. Think what a simple bed and breakfast costs and then add physical care on top.. Self funders in many cases subsidise this who have no money to pay for the care.

#### Prevention

Adult social services try and prevent admissions to hospital by providing short term support in an emergency both avoiding admissions and helping get people back on their feet again at home.

Health care is free at the point of delivery but social care is not

We as a Nation do not pay enough to cover either health or social care costs at the moment so the government, rather than increase general taxation for all, has said that Councils can increase Council Tax this year specifically to pay for increased social service demands . This is in addition to a general Council Tax to keep pace with inflation of just under 2%

If we increase this part of Council Tax by 2-3% and use it just for social care, we will start the new financial without this £11 million hanging over our heads , in other words, a balance budget and we start the year fresh but still having to look at changing what we do and how we do it to save money

- Council Tax will be decided in February at the full council meeting.

Council tax 2% - 3% predicated for Adult Social Care  
General council tax 1.8% could go to 1.95 %  
NO EASY ANSWER.

- NEW HOMES BONUS. We have already secured this funding which would have gone to Districts but is now included in our Social Care budget

More money for social care will come from the New homes bonus  
To encourage people to build houses the government pays money to District  
New homes bonus will stop going completely to District. (£ 4.5 million to south Norfolk this year)

- BUSINESS RATES

Business rates have always gone to Central government and they return to us a proportion as rate support grant.

This will reduce to nothing by 2019

But then we will retain all Business Rates produced in our area. However if we produce a very high level of business rates, some shared out to poorer areas conversely

We need to be business orientated to produce enough money in order to cover our needs at local level.

NB As a county councillor, I try to ensure that what money we have gets the best services available for the people in my area of Norfolk.

Happy to answer any questions by email any time  
Margaret