

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT 2017

I have now completed 20 years as your local County Councillor for the Moulton Division which comprised 13 villages. (Boughton, Pitsford, Moulton, Hannington, Holcot, Old, Overstone, Walgrave the Bramptons the Harlestones and Spratton.)

We are approaching the County Council Elections on 4th May and have now entered a period of Purdah which will restrict the content of my report.

NCC have commenced the second year of a four year budget, and have to make and have to make £66.9m savings over the next 12 months which is a substantial challenge.

This is being achieved for example by:

- 12 Headquarter buildings being consolidated into one (One Angel Square) (£51M saving). The new Council offices will be occupied next month.
- Exploring if we can become Unitary Authority (duplication of services)
- Reducing front line services duplication (people receiving more than one service)
- Adopting a zero based budget approach (instead of looking at existing budgets and deciding what cuts can be made, we go to a position of each service having zero money and seeing what they need to deliver their outcomes!) ensuring resources are deployed to the right areas.
- No cuts are planned but the key is managing demand

Our Highways maintenance alliance is recognised as best value and ensures that we repair over 40,000 potholes a year. (which covers a 28,000 mile road network in Northamptonshire).

Since 2012 we have created 13,474 new School places in the county. This year, for example, saw Secondary School places allocated to more than 8000 pupils across Northamptonshire – 300 more than last year.

Our invaluable Fire & Rescue Service has attended more than 4000 incidents this year and the number of incidents continue to fall. This is testament to the work by the F&R in our communities through Home Safety Checks. This year, almost 80% of the homes in high risk areas have been visited and checked by our Fire Officers to help people to minimise risks to themselves and to their properties.

Our Library Plus Centres are being used more than ever and will have been visited more than 3 Million times this last year, and our valued Country Parks attracted over 2 million visitors.

We have established 'First for wellbeing' the largest publicly owned social enterprise of its type which is revolutionising our offer to residents in the services we provide. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has indicated that Northamptonshire is to receive 11.5m extra for Social Care in recognition of the demand pressures we face here on our service.

The number of older people in our county (currently 132,00 is predicted to grow by around 37,000 over the next 10 years. This means by 2027 the number of people over 85 will have

increased by 7000! (from 16,000 to 23,000). This means we have to deliver our services in a much smarter way.

As part of our Next Generation Model we are creating NASS for the provision of Adult Social Care as a single entity (Olympus, Contracts, ASC combined) which will be fully operational by September of this year.

NCC are to run a further consultation on the preferred route for the Northern Orbital Route and the North-West Relief Road simultaneously. The consultation material will be available on the NCC website immediately before the start of the consultation which runs for 6 weeks from 15th May until the 30th of June. There will be a number of Exhibitions in several locations. (Including Boughton, Pitsford, Harlestone, Moulton and Kingsthorpe).

Locally I sit on Harlestone, Raybell, Boughton and Pitsford Liaison Forums, the OMBHH Committee, The Buckton Fields Liaison Forum and in addition I attend all the Parish Council Meetings within my Division and I have been a Boughton Parish Councillor for over 30 years.

I am at present Chairman of Development Control at NCC which deals with planning issues such as Schools, Roads, Minerals and Waste. It is a job I love!

Judy Shephard
County Councillor
Moulton Division