District Councillors Report for Swardeston PC Feb 2021

The heavy rain over the Christmas period brought extensive flooding to South Norfolk District with many homes and businesses flooded. The Council was able to help with the provision of emergency accommodation. Some 31 skips were provided for the disposal of damaged household goods. At the time of writing there are still some residual flooding issues with gardens under water and intermittent road flooding. In my opinion some of the problems could have been prevented. For example, there appears to be no routine roadside gulley clearance and some sewage pumping stations do not appear to be fit for purpose. There is much water run off from fields. Many ditches are blocked. The pattern of rainfall appears to be changing. Further heavy rainfall is likely in the autumn and measures should be taken to minimise the effects.

The Lead Local Flood Authority at Norfolk County Council is to produce a report. This may take many months. In addition The County Council has asked Lord Dannatt to provide a report. South Norfolk Council as a Risk Management Authority has some limited powers to undertake minor drainage work and is investigating what it can do. Consideration is being given to the appointment of more Environment officials to oversee such work.

The main part of The Greater Norwich Local Plan has been published and is open for consultation until March 20th. The Village Cluster element which applies to South Norfolk is expected to be published in April.

Nigel Legg