

Ward Councillor Annual Report

This has been a particularly challenging year for us all post COVID and trying to return to normal meetings social isolation and mental wellbeing still an ongoing issue and as councillors we have been very mindful that our support is needed even more, and then the unexpected cost of living crisis through no fault of any of us. Hence the setting up and financing of The Warm Rooms project to provide those in need of help an opportunity not only to socialise but have food and hot drinks and we are grateful to all those who took part. We have pioneered the Buzz Bus service in the villages to bring back some rural transport in some cases missing for some time. We continued via both locality budgets and community partnership funds to assist Lowestoft and Gt Yarmouth Rugby Club continue their Friday minibus to assist residents from the rural areas to access weekly shopping. We have also continued the Planter Project for schools so they can encourage children to see how food is grown, and how to prepare it for the table so a big thanks for all who took part and both SOLD and The Pakefield Mens Shed for making the planters. The Community Partnership has also provided a select of books and games for our warm rooms and SOLD made us wooden boxes to store them in.

A big thanks for all who have been a part of the Community Partnership your help, ideas, and enthusiasm to make ours an enormous success has been outstanding you have all shown just how important our local communities are.

Locality budgets this year have been used to provide play equipment, support for local groups such as Bluestone in Bloom, Defibrillators both new and those that need maintenance, revamping of telephone boxes to reutilise them for other things.

This coming year will have some new challenges; however, I look forward to supporting you all.

Paul Ashdown

Ward Councillor for Lothingland