

Report from your County Councillor, Cllr Steffan Aquarone



Climate Emergency

Back in February, as the County Council prepared to debate the budget for the next financial year, the meeting was interrupted by protestors from Extinction Rebellion, who prevented the meeting from continuing for a number of hours. While many other councillors have been highly critical of their action, I am supportive. We are truly facing a climate emergency, and every day of inaction brings us one day closer to global catastrophe. Everyday life should not be continuing as if nothing is happening, and if storming a Council meeting is what it takes for people to pay attention, then so be it.

At last month's April Full Council meeting, the Liberal Democrats proposed a motion to declare a county-wide Climate Emergency. This was voted down by the Conservatives, despite having cross-party support within the opposition groups and, since then, the backing of the UK Government. A more watered-down motion, proposed by the Conservative administration was accepted, however. I supported this motion, as I believe it is better to be taking some action rather than none, but we are still doing nowhere near enough. I and the Liberal Democrats will continue to fight for the Council to take more action on Climate Change, and I wholeheartedly support the nationwide Climate Emergency declaration.

There are glimmers of hope, however. I, like so many others, have been taken aback by the passionate, principled work of 16-year-old Greta Thunberg. She, like so many other young people, gives me hope that this generation will force the hands of politicians who for too long have failed to robustly address this issue. Furthermore, Lib-Dem controlled North Norfolk District Council has already declared a Climate Emergency - the first local authority in the County to do so. This is a vital step and I look forward to seeing our local district council take the lead in Norfolk in fighting back against the climate crisis.

Local Council elections

I am happy to be welcoming new District Councillors, with whom I will work regardless of their political party. Previously a total of four wards were covered by Melton Constable County Division; since the boundary changes things have become a little more complicated but if you haven't yet met your new district councillor, let me know and I will introduce you!