



## Report from your County Councillor, Cllr Steffan Aquarone

### Full Council- 26th September 2023

Today at the Full Council meeting of Norfolk County Council, I tabled a motion against the closure of reablement unit Benjamin Court in Cromer, which you can view [here](#).

I made the point that there should have been a public consultation, and that I, my colleagues, and the wider community are concerned about the impact of the closure on people who need help recovering from periods of time in hospital, as well as the additional pressure it will put on delayed transfers of care, failed discharges, and unmet care needs in the local area.

The council rejected this opportunity to recognise the importance of convalescence, rejected the claim that the current system falls short for citizens, and voted against stating that they will 'protect and serve all existing adult social care convalescence facilities and prevent them from transferring out of the remit of control of adult social care'. I will nevertheless continue to campaign on this issue!

### Future improvements in Adult Social Care

Our NHS and social care services are on their knees, which is why I welcomed the fact that £5 billion was pledged at the Liberal Democrat conference in Bournemouth towards providing free social care. Improving social care is a key issue, and one that affects North Norfolk significantly.

This pledge, largely funded through the savings it will generate, will reduce the burden of paying for care in old age for individuals, and mean that people can access care at home.

Access to local healthcare service is an incredibly pertinent issue in North Norfolk, especially with the potential closure of services in places such as Cromer as well as Blakeney surgery.

### Sheringham Waste Recycling Centre

At this month's Full Council meeting I also questioned the plan made earlier this year to build a new recycling centre in Sheringham.

The chosen site is a designated AONB which is now threatened with large scale

**Email:** [steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk) **Tel:** 01603 327827



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industrialisation. However, it is not just the environmental cost, but also the financial cost to the taxpayer that the administration must justify. I questioned just how much per month in rent will use of this site cost the council, as it is suspected it will cost the taxpayer £20,000 annually.

I would like to see the Norfolk County Council adapt the plan for the centre, as the current cost will be £1.6 million. The current site could be expanded and the money used instead on a roundabout at the top of Holway Road, reducing traffic issues.



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