



### Street Lights turned off by South Norfolk Council will be turned back on by your Town Council

Firstly we would like to thank the residents who came to a series of meetings over the summer to engage in our debates over street lighting. We take pride in how we manage community services, but struggled to understand the District Council's approach and timing around this topic. As with many services everyone pays the Council Tax whether they use them or not. We were really disappointed with South Norfolk Council's decision to retain just 88 of the 226 columns and that they only wrote to just 500 households in the vicinity of a light, rather than the 7,000 Costessey Council Tax payers. Towns including Wymondham & Diss were faced with the same issue and like us have decided to take on responsibility.



South Norfolk Council 'cropped' these columns on safety grounds.

We are working towards an April 2019 handover but the District Council has compounded the problem by deciding not to replace many of the columns which were 'cropped' on safety grounds. This means some lights will still be off over the winter period whilst we seek to find a compromise. South Norfolk Council charged a Special Levy on your Council Tax equivalent to £5.01 per annum for a Band D dwelling. This will be removed from your 2019/20 demand, but transferred and added to the Town Council's share.



Chairman Sharon Blundell in our Rymarz Gallery at The Costessey Centre viewing the WW1 display collated by Councillor Paul Cooper.

### Introducing our new Chairman Sharon Blundell

I feel really privileged to have been elected as Chairman by my Town Council colleagues in May. I've been a resident of Costessey since 2007 and a volunteer Town Councillor for over seven years. For the past ten years I have lived with my husband and four children on Queen's Hills and I am an active volunteer supporting the community when I can. I help with the Community Fridge and, alongside my husband and children, assist at the fantastic annual Costessey Fete. I am also a Governor for the Queen's Hill Primary and Nursery School and organise and take part in their litter picks.

In 2015 you voted for me to represent you as a District Councillor for South Norfolk Council which has broadened my knowledge of community issues which are important to you. Sadly due to my disability of Neurological Functional Disorder which can be very unpredictable, I am unable to work and this is my way of giving back in a small way. My main aim this year is to improve the Town Council's Community Engagement. We are already very approachable but are seeking to develop better ways of supporting our communities. Often we can signpost you to an organisation which can help. We are pleased to be working in partnership with City College, Norwich to develop better ways of communicating our decisions and services.



7,000 people enjoyed a spectacular two day fete. "Volunteers were phenomenal." Lead Organiser Cllr Gary Blundell



The Dog Show was a popular attraction and will return in 2019.



Together with the Royal British Legion we commemorated 100 years since the end of World War One and hosted a Sunset Ceremony.

