

Borough Councillor report to Downham Market Town Council  
Councillor Josie Ratcliffe  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### **Food for Thought – starts this week**

Free food sessions to help residents trying to make ends meet, due to increasing food costs, are coming to Downham Market.

Lily, a service that is owned and managed by the Borough Council, is organising 12 weeks of interactive sessions. Eternity Downham Market on Sovereign Way, PE38 9SW, will host the weekly drop-in meetings between 9:30am and 11:30 every Thursday from 21 September.

For more information, email [asklily@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:asklily@west-norfolk.gov.uk) or telephone Lily on [01553 616200](tel:01553616200).

### **Maintenance of Play Areas on Landseer Drive**

Longhurst Housing eventually agreed they are responsible for the small play area where Rabbit Lane crosses Landseer Drive, after leaving it un-mowed this year. Their contractor has now sorted it out, and signs will be put up on all their play areas with contact details to report any future issues. The Borough Council is responsible for other play areas, and they have appropriate signage.

### **Persimmon Homes' donation to Downham Market Academy**

Persimmon Homes, who are building the new housing site on Broomhill (between the petrol station and Wimbotsham) have a Community Champions fund. Downham Market Academy applied for funding to buy additional safety equipment so they could use their four trampolines at the same time, instead of only two, and they were awarded £2,000 last week.

<https://www.persimmonhomes.com/community-champions-2023>

### **West Norfolk Wins - community lottery**

West Norfolk Wins community lottery is a weekly online lottery created by the Borough Council to support local good causes across west Norfolk.

'Discover Downham Heritage Centre' and 'Downham Dementia Support Association' have signed up, so now they can be nominated to receive funds from ticket purchases (or choose from many other local organisations).

<https://www.westnorfolkwins.co.uk>

### **Annual Council Tax Support Scheme consultation - Time is running out to have your say**

The borough council runs a Council Tax Support Scheme, which is designed to help working age people with the cost of their Council Tax if they are on a low income. This scheme is reviewed annually, and each time the Borough Council invites all residents to have their say on it.

Details of the proposed scheme and the consultation questionnaire are available on the council's website at [west-norfolk.gov.uk/ctsconsultation](http://west-norfolk.gov.uk/ctsconsultation) until 1 October 2023.