

Perhaps the most significant event at South Norfolk Council this month has been the behind closed doors emergency meeting to agree on the sale of South Norfolk House in Long Stratton. Without giving away too much sensitive information on what took place in this meeting there was at least one first in the council's history. A proposed amendment in support of the Community bid put forward by Long Stratton Town Council ended in a tied vote. Sadly, the amendment was ultimately defeated by the casting vote of the Council's Chairman, but this should not mask the vote's significance or the importance of this year's District Council elections result. This is the first time in many years that the leadership of the council has truly been challenged and I believe that can only be good for the people of South Norfolk in the future.

What comes across to me in so many of my interactions with the people of Harleston, Needham and Wortwell is that there is a sense of individuals and communities being ignored or undervalued by various levels of government. I tend to agree with this as I believe that increasingly as a society, we have stopped valuing people and there has become a tendency to treat individuals as little more than statistics. Unsurprisingly, the effect of this has been to treat individuals as a problem to be overcome rather than as people to be helped. This is a terrible shame and while I understand that finances and manpower is tight in local and national government that doesn't mean that more couldn't or shouldn't be done to assist people and communities. I certainly hope that, in my own small way, I can do some good in this regard.

I will be holding my councillor surgery on the morning of Saturday December 23rd between 10 and 12 at Harleston Information Plus and I can also be contacted by email on James.Eddy@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

All the best,

James