**REPORT TO THE GREAT PAXTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: 16th MAY 20222**

Looking back, it has been a difficult time for many residents with frontline services becoming more important. Over the year the District Council has tried to modernise and transform to create more options for residents to access services.

Through the ‘One Leisure’ Centres, the District Council will continue to offer residents across Huntingdonshire a value for money, well-equipped, knowledgeable, and professional hub for all leisure and well-being needs and will continue to invest in a service that offers all age groups the ability to work towards a healthier lifestyle whilst offering opportunities to try new activities.

Following on from last year the community chest grants to local community groups will continue to support the work of local voluntary organisations.

The District Council have adopted and will deliver the following realistic and pragmatic environmental principles for Huntingdonshire as part of an environmentally positive recovery following the impacts of COVID-19:

* To target a net-zero carbon Huntingdonshire by 2040
* To protect, enhance and restore existing natural areas and create new ones
* To ensure that new development should be designed with a view to minimising and mitigating the effects of climate change
* To ensure existing and new communities see real benefits in their well-being from living in Huntingdonshire; and
* To use natural resources wisely.

The programme for planting at least 10,000 more trees is all part of the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020 – 2030.

To further enhance Hinchingbrooke Country Park, the District Council intends to improve services to residents and visitors by investing £3million in a new enlarged car park, new visitor facilities, a sculpture trail, cycle route, new pathway network and play areas. With the help of partners, it hopes to treble the size of Paxton Pits to 700 acres.

HDC wishes to continue to recycle so that by 2035 it reaches the government target of 65%

In terms of my roles at the District Council, I am a member of the Licensing and Corporate Governance Committees, Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) and Chairman of the Employment Committee and Hinchingbrooke Country Park Joint Group. My hope for the future is continued low council tax, now just seven per cent, or £2.90 a week, of the Council Tax you pay goes to the District Council. I also want to continue to help first-time buyers, protect frontline services, deliver new investment, support local business and vulnerable residents all themes that I’m sure all local councillors would want to achieve.

I would like to thank the Parish Clerk Mrs Brandon as since her appointment she has been so helpful to me and to pay tribute to the Parish Councillors who am sure have the best interests of the village in mind.

**District Councillor Richard West**