



New Year Greetings from Marianne Overton MBE



Thank you all very much for your support in working together to make life better in our communities. I wish you the best of health and happiness through 2020.

This is the decade for getting our communities right, working well together for the good of all, living well in our communities with a clean, green and safe environment.

Last year we celebrated anniversaries that give us hope in the ability of humanity and our communities. A hundred years ago, more equal access to democracy began in this country for both men and women. Seventy years ago, we gave equal access for all to health care in the NHS. Fifty years ago, people stepped on the moon and came back safely.

Now we face another challenge. As we have suffered floods, so Australia is ablaze with catastrophic fires. Recently, I met the scientists and heard the evidence on climate change, as presented to the United Nations, demonstrating that more challenging targets were needed, to avert massive migration as land becomes uninhabitable because of increasing extreme weather events. This is the decade to change our impact on the environment, and we're up for it.

It is time to do what we can locally and nationally, to strive for stronger

communities to create a good quality of life without cost to others.

I called for international support at the World Congress of Local Government in

November and nationally to Local Government in July.

Our motion was passed at North Kesteven District Council, calling for a clear plan to better tackle our impact on the environment. With a majority of Lincolnshire Independents and Independents on the Council, we are jointly rewriting our business plans to focus on being a listening and responsive Council, with a commitment to our communities, and the environment on which we rely, now and in the long term.

We also called for better support of the vulnerable, passing the UN initiative for women against violence and against anti-semitism.

I met with UK government ministers to make the case clearly for better funding for local services, to good effect. We calculated a shortfall of £2.6bn this year and were given £3.5bn, including a Council tax rise.

We are now working to get cross party agreement at local level at least, making it possible to fund adult care in the long term.

For almost four years, we have worked jointly with ministers on arrangements that would need to be in place for a smooth exit

from the EU, so we should be reasonably prepared.

With a one-party government, it is more important than ever that we press for a listening government, who genuinely cares about our communities and is doing everything possible to help us all thrive.

I look forward to working with you to help create a happy and successful 2020.

