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To Norfolk Town Councils

I am writing to thank you right across the county for the wonderfully warm welcome you have given my Deputy Lieutenants when presenting you with the Lieutenancy blue plaques to commemorate the coming together of communities during the Pandemic. My Deputies have reported how much they enjoyed meeting everyone, and how much pleasure it has given each of them to connect with their local communities. I very much hope it will prove to be a two-way process, and a relationship we can nurture together, and build on in the future.

I am also writing to thank you all for the quite fantastic community events you laid on to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee last month. Everywhere I went, schools, care homes, Scouts, village halls, and town centres alike, there seemed endless smiling faces, miles of bunting, street parties of every sort, and a good number of splendidly decorated cakes waiting to be cut! As someone remarked to me last week ... I smiled all weekend and haven't I stopped smiling since!

I know events like these don't organise themselves however. So I would just like to say a very sincere thank you to all those who put in so much time, effort, energy and imagination into making the Jubilee celebrations the resounding success they undoubtedly were. I stated right at the start I wanted Norfolk's children of today to be able to say to their children and grandchildren in seventy, eighty, even ninety years time I remember Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 ... my goodness, they really knew how to throw a party back then!

And thanks to all your fantastic efforts, that aspiration has indeed come true. And the good thing is the celebrations are not over yet, not by any means. If you haven't already done so, do please log into the first class Norfolk Platinum Jubilee website established by James Bagge DL and his team [Platinum Jubilee website](#). As you will see, there remains much for people of all ages to involve themselves with over coming months.

And for communities who have yet to plant a tree (or indeed many trees) as part of the Queen's Green Canopy (our gift to Her Majesty on behalf of the nation) it is certainly not too late. October offers an excellent planting window, and I know my Deputies would be only too delighted to help you plant your trees (or hedges - I recently visited a school where I formally opened a magnificent newly planted hedge) - just remember to register the plantings on [The Queen's Green Canopy](#). Here in Norfolk, where the Queen has a much loved family home, and where Prince Philip chose to spend much of his retirement, it would be wonderful to demonstrate our particular affection and gratitude to them both.

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, The Lady Dannatt, MBE



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Moving on, I share with you my great sadness over the fires caused by the recent heatwave destroying at least 14 homes, large acreages of land and a number of animals and wildlife. I can only pay tribute to the professionalism, expertise and enormous courage demonstrated by our Fire and Rescue Service, ably supported by Norfolk's Police. Please pass on my thanks wherever appropriate to local individuals and families who have shown great hospitality and generosity towards those who have lost their homes and treasured possessions.

Looking ahead now to the autumn and winter, I know you will be sharing my grave concerns as the cost of living rises exponentially. In Norfolk we are already seeing a huge rise in the use of not only food banks, but shoe banks and clothes banks too, as parents try to equip their youngsters for the start of the new school year in September.

I know I am not alone in my deep concern for those living in our most rural areas, especially the elderly and those living alone. I know you will do everything you can to watch out for those most at risk amongst us - not always the obvious people either - as hardworking individuals struggle with mortgage payments, unexpected unemployment, depression and mounting debt. The Norfolk Community Foundation is always a very good place to start in cases of need [Norfolk Community Foundation](#).

I began this letter by thanking you, and I am going to end it by doing the same. Norfolk is a wonderful place in which to live, but it only works as well as it does because of her extraordinary network of councils, coupled with the generosity, hard work and selfless dedication of people like yourselves, who make it work.

On behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, my profound gratitude to you all for everything you do for this glorious county of ours - and for those living here and fortunate enough to call it home.

With my very best wishes

The Lady Dannatt MBE

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