



RYBURGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 22 May 2024, 6pm in the Village Hall

Present: Parish Council

Glenn McCarthy (Chairman)

Christopher Buxton

Christopher Weston

Rebecca Kelly

Henry Palmer

Laura Trabucco (Clerk)

Broadland District Councillor

Mike Hankins

Memorial Hall and Playing Field

Sharon Moore

St. Andrew's Church

Anne M.C. Prentis

Ryburgh Village Shop

Andrew Purdy

St. Andrew's Church Bell-Ringer's

Fenella Purdy

Crisp Maltings

Dan Clarke (Site Manager)

Jake Lambert (Group operations Director)

Neil Banbury (Managing Director)

Plus 19 other members of the public including 5 members of the youth group.

At the opening of the meeting the Chairman delegated Councillor Christopher Weston to conduct the agenda and read his Chairman's report, Chris welcomed everyone and thanks were expressed to members of the public attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Luke Merchant and Matt Lawrence – Parish Council, Steffan Aquarone – Norfolk County Councillor, Mike Rundle – Fuel Allotment Trustees & Ryburgh Wildlife Group, Ruth Paterson – Ryburgh Stich Group.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2023

These were noted as received.

3. Parish Council's Chairman's report

Christopher Weston read the Chairman's report.

See report attached.

4. Report from Village Groups, Charities and Organisations

a. Great Ryburgh Fuel Allotment Trustees – Mike Rundle

Christopher Weston read the Fuel Allotment Trustees report.

See attached.

- b. Ryburgh Wildlife Group – Mike Rundle
Christopher Weston read the Ryburgh Wildlife Group report.
See attached.
- c. The Ryburgh Stitch Group – Ruth Paterson
Christopher Weston read the Fuel Allotment Trustees report.
See attached.
- d. Memorial Hall and Playing Field – Samantha Swain
Sharon Moore read the Memorial Hall and Playing Field report.
See attached.
- e. St. Andrew's Church, Great Ruburgh – Anne M.C. Prentis (Churchwarden)
Anne read her report.
See attached.
- f. Ryburgh Village Shop – Andrew Purdy
Andrew read his report.
See attached.
- g. St. Andrew's Great Ryburgh Bell-Ringer's Report – Fenella Purdy
Fenella gave a copy of her report.
See attached.

5. Reports from other bodies

North Norfolk District Councillor Report - Mike Hankins
See attached.

6. Crisp Maltings representative

Three representatives attended the meeting and Dan Clarke spoke about the family business and upcoming projects and asked members of the public to come forward with any questions. He explained that Crisp Malt are still actively planning to complete the road to reduce traffic through the village and is in the process of putting together a report to Highways Engineers, with detailed plans and phase stages of the construction, which would answer any concerns raised from recent consultations. Planning conditions had to be looked at together with a response to the Environment Agency and a proposal will be prepared in the next six to nine months, therefore the planning is still in discussion and is currently with the local authorities concerning widening of passing places along the Fakenham Road to the B1146. There is not current timescale available in which work will commence, however it was confirmed that the company will complete the road work once all planning is complete. District Councillor Mike Hankins raised concern over the current access of the bridge. Dan explained that upon completion of the new access road there will be no HGV access to the site from Bridge Road and there will be no left turn from the new access road onto the Fakenham Road further reducing traffic in the village. It was explained that due to the nature of the site it would still require that HGV's would travel the short distance between gate 1 and 3 for loading purposes only.

7. General Parish Issues

Parishioners raised the following:

- Can the agenda of the Parish Council include discussion of the *Save the Blue Boar Inn Campaign* and a commitment by the Parish Council to work with and support the Campaign.

Andrew said that an application to register the pub as a community asset has been made and that an application for a Government Grant has been sent. He thanked all the trades persons volunteers who gave their time free of charge to assess the project and ideas and he mentioned that a game room area, with pool table and soft drinks will be made available for the youth group.

- Can all planning applications be published in the Wensum Diary.
- Where is the specific invitation to the youth in the village so that we may hear their voice please?

A youth member read his report asking the Council to engage more with the youth group and to ask if they could have an area in the Village they could use.

- Could we ask who is responsible for the wooden gates giving access to the railway track to repair/replace them.

The meeting closed at 6.47pm

Chairman's Signature Date

RYBURGH

Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Reports 2023/2024

Chairman's Annual Report: 2023 -2024

Welcome to this Annual Parish Meeting which gives me the opportunity to review our activities over the past twelve months.

The Council met seven times since the last Annual Parish Meeting.

Unfortunately, the Council suffered a degree of disruption following the resignation of the previous Parish Clerk and 6 councillors just before Christmas, and we are grateful for the help of the District Council and Norfolk Association of Local Councils, especially Sarah Bristow, who provided cover as Locum Clerk, providing us with much helpful advice and helping us getting back to a normal and functional Council.

I would like to thank the former council members for their work prior to resignation, they have left us with a solid foundation on which to build.

The Parish Precept was set at £13,750.00, resulting in no increase for a Band D property. This year we have had to increase the precept of £4.81 due to increase in cost of general maintenance around the parish like grass cutting, street lights and similar items.

The full details of the Council's activities are contained in the Minutes of our meetings, which can be found on the Parish Council's website

<https://ryburghparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk> along with other information on village life, and the contact details for our newly appointed Parish Clerk, Laura Trabucco. Please, if you have any issues you want to raise, please contact Laura through the email address on the website, or of course, stop any of the councillors when you see us, and we will try to ensure the issue is on the agenda for the next meeting.

I thank our District Councillor, Mike Hankins and County Councillor Steffan Aquarone, for the invaluable assistance they have given Ryburgh and for the dedication with which they attend our meetings.

Finally, my thanks go to my fellow councillors, all of whom are volunteers, who will give generously of their time in the interest of keeping Ryburgh such a friendly and pleasant place in which to live.

Thank you.
Glenn McCarthy
May 2024

REPORT OF THE CURRENT TRUSTEES OF THE RYBURGH FUEL ALLOTMENT TO THE RYBURGH PARISH COUNCIL - MAY 2024

The current trustees are Michael Rundle, John Hopkins, Clive Lonsdale and Ian Wilson appointed by the Parish Council in June 2023

The Fuel Allotment which extends to some 29 acres of mainly flooded woodland, continues to be let to Mr John Savory by Tenancy Agreement dated 13th February 2017. The term is for 10 years expiring on 1st November 2026. The Agreement requires the tenant to manage the Fuel Allotment in accordance with the Conservation Enhancement Scheme issued by Natural England and in accordance with any further directions issued by Natural England. In these circumstances the Fuel Allotment has been held by the trustees for nature conservation.

The Tenancy Agreement includes a provision requiring the Tenant to maintain a path to give unrestricted access to the Fuel Allotment for persons authorised by the trustees and a sign advising the public of the path was erected by the trustees (through the generosity of the Parish Council in 2020). The Fuel Allotment thereby provides an important green space for the benefit of all.

The trustees have approached the Charity Commission and are working hard towards altering the historic objects of the trust as a fuel allotment for the poor of the parish, to that of a **green space with conservation of nature in mind.**

Hopefully we will be able to complete this by October 2025 or earlier.

Mike Rundle
May 2024

Ryburgh Wildlife Group
Report to Ryburgh Parish Annual Meeting – May 2024

As acting Chairman of the Group I am pleased to report that it continues from strength to strength. Membership remains firm and many of the members represent their family in addition to themselves. Currently there are some 70 members.

The group is solvent with a healthy bank balance.

Details of past events, the minutes of the committee meetings and a forum for discussion between members can be viewed on the Groups website at ryburgh-wildlife-group.co.uk.

The group continues to promote the Ryburgh Pollinator Highway, an initiative which recognises that pollinator insects are in decline, due in-part to intensive farming and insecticides, and recognises the importance of rural villages and villagers gardens as a haven for pollinators.

Spring bulbs were distributed free to villagers at the shop last autumn and plantings made throughout the village, resulting in more spring flowers for pollinators. More bulbs were added to the playing field woodland this spring with the same objective.

The committee are currently working with Norfolk Wildlife Trust to coordinate the establishment of wildlife corridors from Great Ryburgh to adjoining villages and seeking the support of the landowners through whose land the corridors pass. It is hoped that the Parish Council will support the initiative of wildlife corridors by specific provision in its Biodiversity Policy in liaison with the Wildlife Group in 2004/25.

Mike Rundle
May 2024

Ryburgh Stich Group Annual Report 2023-2024

The Ryburgh stitch group has been meeting regularly throughout the past year. We meet every first and third Monday afternoon and have a variety of stitch group activities being undertaken.

The meetings are open to anyone even if they can't knit or sew, and indeed one new member has learned to knit with expert advice from the group's knitting members.

Also some exquisite embroidery and cross stich work has been achieved over the year and we all encourage each other.

We are a friendly group who enjoy a chat over tea, coffee and biscuits and anyone who is interested, whatever their ability, should contact Ruth on 01328 829803. If there is no reply there is an answer machine and you will be contacted as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Ruth Paterson

MEMORIAL HALL AND PLAYING FIELD ANNUAL REPORT

We have had a very busy year; we have had a boost of bookings for the Hall as well as successful fundraising for both the hall and the playing field.

We have a committee that manages the Memorial Hall and playing field and 2 sub committees that focus on fundraising events and grant applications.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to make our work harder within the community with some planned events needing to be cancelled due to low turn out this of which are the community café and the hotspot and access to grants being harder to obtain due to the sheer number of applicants also needing funds. However, with this in mind we have still managed to increase our fundraising efforts post covid.

The hall has had an influx of new bookings in the last 6 months which has been a welcome boost, alongside the regulars that are Bingo, forces fitness and puppy training we have gained Clubbersize on a Friday which is so popular they are hoping to extend their sessions in October. There are life drawing classes once a month that have been popular and they have also planned some full days on top of their normal classes. Crisp maltings have also been utilising the hall more this past 6 months as have the Wildlife group and puppy training classes had to add extra sessions for a brief time at the start of the year.

This year the village had a very successful murder mystery night raising £763.52 for the hall we are very grateful to the organisers For One Night Only for this event and donation.

We have managed to successfully get the hall online with some bookings being made through our website. Also, our bank account can now be managed online meaning payments can now be made and managed without the need for cheques.

As well as having a new smart meter installed in the hall, we are looking into the possibility of Wi-Fi being available in the hall but that is still in its infancy. Most of the Hall lights have also been updated to more energy efficient ones with the rest being done once funding has been secured.

There are also Bi monthly quiz nights, a fun day booked for June, we have had a craft fair and the normal winter car boots which have all been successful.

With feedback obtained in mind, as a committee we have been making attempts to improve the aesthetics of the grounds surrounding the hall. Weeding and seeding have been done periodically with the view we would have some areas that were left to support wildlife and other areas that were more maintained, although with current continuous wet weather this has been a challenge.

Last year we managed to secure some much needed grants from the National lottery for the playing field, although some of those funds had to be reallocated to pay for several bouts of vandalism on the playing field.

We have had an amazing grass cutter this past year however he is now retiring meaning we now need to source a new contract for the field, this is one of our biggest expenditures for the field currently.

The gates and tractor shed have had a new coat of paint and new signage has been acquired for the front gate. This year we have trialled allowing dogs on the field and although this has been extremely welcomed, we are having an issue with some owners not picking up the dog mess off the field. Those that do pick up are unfortunately using the rubbish bins for the waste which we are in urgent need of a dog bin for, and this is being investigated. We currently have 2 new benches to be installed. The wildlife group have been an important asset in maintaining and improving the community woodland.

Overall, it's been a good successful year, and we hope this continues through to next year. A big thank you to the committee members and outside agencies that have helped and supported us this year and made it possible to keep our much needed assets available for the whole community.

Samantha Swain
Chairperson

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, GREAT RYBURGH

St. Andrew's has enjoyed another active year, opening its doors to worshippers, pilgrims, visitors and local residents. It is a testimony to the community spirit in this village that we have been able to keep our parish church open and welcoming for all who come our way.

In my last report a year ago I mentioned that our Rector, Robin, had taken on responsibility for an additional benefice of seven parishes. Technically speaking, Robin is now our part-time rector. Thanks to Robin's flexibility and to the kindness and generosity of the retired clergy, we have been able to maintain our pattern of three Sunday services a month and for this we are very grateful.

Once again we have been able to mark the great Christian festivals of Christmas, Easter and Ascension with well attended services and are grateful to the bell ringers, the choir and the flower arrangers for their help in making these occasions so uplifting. Harvest Festival when contributions were invited for the Food Bank and Remembrance Sunday with the customary laying of wreaths at the war memorial were other key services in the life of the church this last year. On both of these occasions the congregation sat down to Sunday lunch with us after the service.

As you may know, St. Andrew's is completely self funding and we are most grateful to all who support our community events and help us to keep our doors open. The quarterly markets, Open Gardens, the Safari Supper and the concerts have all been very enjoyable occasions and we thank all who have supported or contributed to them.

In a month's time our church architect will be spending a day with us to inspect the church building to ensure it is safe and offer guidance about future restoration work. Since our last inspection five years ago, we have restored two windows, the porch and are now in the middle of a repointing project. Some of the funding for these repairs has come from grants but we are most grateful to Nina and Romané Basset for the sequence of wine tasting evenings they have offered us which have done so much to raise funds and also encourage local residents to take an interest in the church. Thanks are also due to Chris and Lesley for the wonderful barbecues they have arranged which have also helped fund the repairs. Of particular note was the evening arranged for the Morris Dancers who spent the weekend with us to celebrate David and Julie's wedding. The rain poured down but the barbecue went on!

If you have visited the church recently, you will have seen that the south nave wall has now been repointed. Peter has almost finished the repairs to the east gable and then work will begin on the north nave wall. We are indebted to Peter for his dedication and skill in restoring our church fabric to such good effect. His work should stand at least another 150 years!

The Walsingham Way is now well established and St. Andrew's and the William Martin Building featured in a widely circulated pilgrim publication following a Pilgrimage Evening arranged in the church last July. The rain poured down once again but the event drew in

members of parishes along the route from Norwich to Walsingham to share experiences of offering hospitality to walkers and pilgrims.

Also in July was another convivial - but wet - evening to which church members from across the Deanery, that is from the coast to Brisley, were invited. Reverend Robin led a memorable service that took its inspiration from the writings of Norfolk personalities of the past such as Julian of Norwich and Richard Taverner of Brisley.

This year's Lent Lunches were well supported with talks covering wide ranging topics: bees by Andrew Purdy, Norwich refugee support and Fakenham First Responders. Charity donations were made on each occasion.

The St. Andrew's churchyard and field continue to be looked after by the volunteers who gather each Friday morning. There are always opportunities for anyone in the village who would like to come and join us to keep our green space looking colourful and welcoming.

The burial ground at Little Ryburgh continues to be well maintained and we frequently receive appreciative comments from visitors. Thank you, Miles, for the wonderful work you do!

The St. Andrew's website with its wealth of local and church history continues to attract interest and Peter is often called upon to assist with family history enquiries. A calendar of church services and events is regularly updated on the website.

Our Rector is happy to conduct weddings, baptisms and funerals for people in the parish and is always ready to offer support to anyone in difficulty.

St. Andrew's is a church that we enjoy looking after on behalf of the village. We rely on some thirty or more volunteers who help during the year in different capacities. A very big "thank you" to them all for helping us keep St. Andrew's as a vibrant and supportive community for the benefit of the whole village. And if anyone else would like to join the choir, learn to ring bells, assist with the cleaning or help in any way, we would be delighted to hear from you!

Anne M.C. Prentis (Churchwarden) 21st May 2024

RYBURGH VILLAGE SHOP REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2024

The last 12 months have not been easy for the village shop with many people tightening their belts. However, as I reported last year, we appear to have maintained the level of customer support and turnover has stayed flat, while many local businesses seem to be reporting falling sales. In contrast, the Post Office has been busy and income was 10% up on 2022-23.

The minimum wage has risen another 10% this year and such above inflation rises every year are becoming unsustainable, driving prices upwards and stoking inflation. We continue to struggle to attract volunteers, which means more paid staff time.

Once again we provided a Christmas tree for the village, and once again we sent almost three-quarters of a tonne of food to the foodbank. We have also been bulk-buying for the foodbank, as they were previously buying off the shelves at Tesco and paying more. We have supplied them with over £2,000 of tinned food in the last few months. We continue to give shopping vouchers and stock goods as prizes to local raffles and charity events.

On 2 March this year we marked 15 years since our community-owned shop opened for business. However it was cold and wet in March, so we have delayed the celebration of this milestone to Saturday 8th June. We will hold our AGM at 1200, after which there will be a short presentation about the shop. In the last 15 years there have been many changes of the people in the village and we believe than some of the newer residents may not appreciate the history of the shop, that it is owned by the village and is run mainly by volunteers. Some of us have been working on the business for 17 years, ever since the idea of taking over the shop was first proposed, and we are keen to get new people on board to ensure continuity for the shop over the next generation. After the talk about the shop, there will be free barbecue and curries from Currylicious, one of our suppliers, together with a barrel of beer or soft drink. We hope that many of the village will join us for this event.

Andrew Purdy
22 May 2024

St Andrew's Great Ryburgh Bell-Ringer's Report 2023-24

Service ringing and Thursday evening practices have continued throughout the year. The bells have been rung for all Sunday and some special services.

The Whissonsett ringers continued to have ringing sessions both at Whissonsett and Great Ryburgh until the summer of 2023. St Andrew's hosted the ringers while the bells at Whissonsett were out of action due to building work at St Edward's. A Whissonsett Sunday service ringing band has been established and two of the Whissonsett ringers now come to the Ryburgh practice evenings. Our Ryburgh learners continue to progress with their ringing skills. An experienced ringer from Colkirk joined the band in the summer.

On the occasion of the Coronation of King Charles III in May we rang as part of the national celebrations. The ringing included a call change sequence composed for this coronation and a longer call change sequence called Coronation which was composed and rung for the Coronation of the King's mother Queen Elizabeth II. This was followed by a celebratory tea. A Quarter Peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung to mark the Coronation. Later in the year we also achieved a Quarter Peal for the late Queen.

The bells were rung for one wedding at St Andrew's and a band of Ryburgh ringers rang for a wedding at Sculthorpe in April this year.

The tenor was tolled for one interment at the Little Ryburgh Cemetery and one funeral at St Andrew's.

In December the final World War I Peal was rung by a band arranged by Peter Trent. This final peal was rung on the anniversary of the death of a serviceman from the village who died from his wounds.

We have hosted two bands of visiting ringers.

The dangers of bell-ringing were highlighted this year when one of the ringers injured her wrist while putting up a bell. Thankfully she is now recovered and has returned to ringing with her enthusiasm undiminished.

The 3rd February 2024 was the 30th anniversary of the re-establishment of bell-ringing at St Andrew's. We marked the day with a "Winter Wander" outing to local churches: North Creake, South Creake, Great Bircham and East Rudham. The South Creake bells are now on an Ellacombe Chime system where the bells are struck with a rope and hammer system. We enjoyed ringing the bells at the other churches all of whom sadly no longer have active ringing bands. The outing was followed by a supper hosting some of the original ringers and teachers from 30 years ago. On 8th June we plan to have a St Andrew's open tower for previous ringers and a Bell-ringer's Tea. We are doing some special ringing in the way of extended ringing and quarter peals to mark the anniversary as well as learning to ring the method St Andrew Place.

A Summer Saunter outing to the Bury St Edmunds area is planned in July.

I thank the band for their continued enthusiasm and support particularly Rosemary, Anne and Peter.

Fenella Purdy

Tower Captain

Annual Parish Meeting Report for Sibbard Ward

Mike Hankins - District Councilor.

It is now over a year since I was elected as the Liberal Democrat for the ward, as a new councilor it has been a steep learning curve, it is very different in many ways to my previous experience as an International Business Consultant and Director however that experience has been invaluable in dealing with the variety of people issues and in understanding the council processes.

I would like to congratulate, the parish councilors in the 7 parish councils in my ward, they have been in the main well administered, and professionally managed.

I would like to thank you all for a friendly and warm welcome, and your patience in dealing with a Newby, in trying to contribute to some of your local issues.

I have summarized below some of the issues I have been closely involved with.

Fulmodeston

I have attended all of the Parish Council's Liaison Committee meetings set up to hold Banham Poultry to account for the serious environmental issues that have been plagued on the village and the surrounding area.

With the considerable support from the councils environmental team, we have arrested the fly infestation [the warmer weather will confirm] however the fan noise from the chicken farm continues to be a serious concern.

Ryburgh

The resignation of virtually the whole parish council necessitated an election of new officers and parish councilors, this is now up and running albeit with an interim secretary provided by the County Council.

I am working with officers to support the proposed Community Project to attempt to purchase the Ryburgh Blue Boar Public House as a Community managed Public House, very similar to what was achieved with the local shop.

I have been involved with both Crisp Maltings and the parish council in understanding the objections to the proposed TPO aimed at reducing the HGV traffic through the village, at the time of writing this has not been resolved.

Planning Applications.

I am alerted to all the planning applications that are raised for the Stibbard ward, in the last year most have been approved within the target period, there are two exceptions in the ward, however.

In Hindolveston an application to convert a disused cottage in to residential occupation has experienced planning difficulties. I have investigated the application through site visits and

officer discussions, and now believe it may be necessary to call the application in for debate at the development committee.

An application to build 7 new affordable houses in the Swanton Novers village has been held up by the legislation appertaining to the nutrient neutrality directive.

This is a county wide issue, nevertheless I have raised this at every opportunity, at long last the consortium of Norfolk councils charged with this issue, has now agreed to make a presentation to NNDC, O&S committee of their plans to mediate this issue.

Postal Deliveries

I am now in the process of requesting the council O&S committee to invite the Post Office Management to explain their plan to improve their delivery performance, this is a particular issue in parts of the Stibbard ward.

Sennowe Park Event.

The organizers have now launched their consultation ahead of this year's event. Details are contained in a separate notice.

Please feel free to comment, make suggestions on this report, your input will be very welcome.

Cllr Mike Hankins.

Liberal Democrat representative for the Stibbard Ward of NNDC.

Serving the parishes of: Fulmodeston, Great Ryburgh, Hindolveston, Ketestone, Sibbard, Swanton Novers and Wood Newton.

Chairman of the Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party.

Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Member of the Development Committee.

YEAR 2023-24 DISTRICT COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT

The **Liberal Democrats** were re-elected for a second 4-year term in May last year taking 25 of the 40 seats and immediately started to prepare the **2023-27 Corporate Plan** and Delivery Plan. We have made significant progress in areas of core service delivery during the year in the face of unprecedented financial challenges set by central government across all local authorities. These include the following:

- A new District-wide **Local Plan** setting planning policies and site allocations until 2036 was submitted to the Government last May and is currently undergoing examination by the Inspector for adoption later this year. A **planning service improvement plan** will be developed this year to identify where positive changes are needed in planning service delivery for all service users.
- Completion of a new **Economic Strategy and Action Plan** to support infrastructure for growth and skills for jobs to enable local businesses to develop and thrive. The Rural Business and Communities Grant funded by the Rural England UK Shared Prosperity Fund was launched last year to allocate £630k to support local businesses.
- Work has been completed on time and within budget in North Walsham with **Heritage Action Zone Improvement Grant** funding to 11 buildings with associated street works. Works to install the new solar carport at The Reef Leisure Centre in Sheringham were completed last July. The High Street task force has started a scheme to improve Stalham town centre. Major investment to repair Cromer Pier was also carried out without recourse to any borrowing.
- Successfully allocated **UK Shared Prosperity Funding** as one of the top 5% of Councils in the country to achieve this delivering high quality skills training and improving life chances by supporting pay, productivity and employment for our residents.
- We have invested in **new public toilets** in North Walsham, Fakenham, Sheringham and Holt to include new Changing Places facilities for the benefit of local people and visitors. A total of seven principal towns will have had either new or improved facilities by the end of the year.
- As part of our commitment to improve our environment, the Council's **carbon footprint** has reduced by more than 50% and the target set when we took office in 2019 to plant 110,000 trees (one for each resident) has been surpassed by 5,000.
- The Council continues to meet the challenge from Government to control **nutrient pollution** in our water catchment area of the Wensum and The Broads and is working

with a syndicate of district councils across Norfolk on a strategy to unlock delayed building sites. Further announcements will follow during the next 3-6 months.

- The Council continues its highly successful program of investment in properties for **Temporary Accommodation** with up to 25 properties providing vital protection for displaced families within our community. The team have spoken with smaller housing associations and developers who are keen to bring more affordable homes to North Norfolk. The Housing team have been under increased pressure this year as we see a rise this year of 47% of people presenting in desperate need of homes. With a vastly reduced number of social homes being built due to Government Neutrient Neutrality rules, the end of the current local plan and building costs.
- NNDC Energy team managed to secure over 40 percent of the County wide funding from Norfolk Warm Homes. Proactively reaching out to communities in the District to offer home energy improvements. This will continue when the next round of grants are announced.
- Social Prescribing service won the Norfolk and Waveney award for Social Prescribing of the Year. I am incredibly proud and passionate of this service. They help those residents that need an extra hand when dealing with every day life.
The Benefits team continue to distribute funds and grants to those in need of more support, in addition to Housing and Council Tax support. Our Financial Inclusion team give budgeting advice and have a Citizens Advice link in house for more complex cases. We continue to perform well above national targets in collecting Council Tax, Business Rates, win more Planning Appeals in Norfolk than any other Council and Decisions on domestic applications, Building Control management, meeting our affordable housing targets to name just a few of our services.
- **Coastwise** funded by Government together with the Council is a nationally significant pilot scheme to prepare us for coastal climate change outcomes and its potential for future coastal erosion. The Council award winning team won a bid for a multi-million-pound grant to trial a program to replace property at risk, improve and replace community infrastructure and re-purposing land at risk whilst restoring habitats I coastal locations. Defenses are being provided at Bacton and Mundesley under the scheme.
- Last September the Local Government Association carried out an independent **Peer Review** of how the Council conducts its business and delivers services to residents, communities, businesses and visitors alike. It concluded that the Council performs well in caring and delivering for residents and gave a 4 (very good) out of 5 (excellent) rating. Housing and peoples services were given special praise. The Council will continue to work proactively to achieve the highest category outcome was a very positive engagement.

A couple of concerns about access points to the beach and refuse collection from the slip way. This has now been confirmed that Balfour Beatty will bring the bins up to the main part of the road to be collected.

A good turn out of residents attended the drop in session at All Saints' Community Rooms. The outcome was a very positive engagement.

Railings

Also wonderful to see the great work that the community pay back team are doing on the railings on the seafront. It is disappointing that a few people choose to make disparaging comments.

Bin Collection Day Change

By now each resident should have a leaflet about the change in rounds after the Easter Holidays. This is to improve efficiency of the rounds and hopefully result in less missed bins.

The advice is that if your bin hasn't been collected on the day, leave the bin out for a further day and then if not collected contact Serco directly. The details are on the leaflet.

DLUCH Visit

The visit from DLUCH has been a longtime in the arranging. I wanted the department to see the unique challenges North Norfolk has in relation to; building affordable housing, attracting larger businesses, transport and health care. Unfortunately the press advertised the visit in a negative way.

However, the visit proved incredibly useful and the team from DLUCH left NNDC impressed and amazed at our proactive approach in dealing with the above issues. They will be consulting with colleagues in government to explore solutions. Hopefully we will have a return visit soon with their ideas on how we can gain more support from central government.

District Councillors Network Conference 2024

This years conference focused largely on Green initiatives and employment skills in the emerging hydrogen and carbon reduction sector.

The Leader and myself met companies which could potentially help reduce our carbon emissions. Also we spoke with Councillors from Norfolk and around the country who all share our anxiety of meeting our spending commitments in the following years.

Community Connectors

Our outreach team have been funded from outside agencies to work with NNDC and our residents for a further year. This is good news as they have been active in our communities referring those who need support into our statutory services. My hope is that we would be

able to hold another Positivitea event this year as the last one was a huge success. Again thank you MPC for paying for the hall hire.

As always, I am honored to be in apposition to help those in Mundesley