



WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

THE SACKHOUSE, JICKLINGS YARD,
WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA NR23 1AU

CLERK'S REPORT WRITTEN FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD APRIL 2012 & PREPARED 23.03.12

- 1) Greg & I attended a Norfolk ALC “drop-in” session at Briarfields Hotel in Titchwell. It was an opportunity to meet some colleagues from West Norfolk and also to gain information from the Norfolk Coast Partnership (AONB people). We used the opportunity to talk about the problems currently reported by the *Coasthopper* bus service.
- 2) We also attended a Norfolk ALC seminar on *Affordable Housing* at Walsingham. This was a short (3 hours) but packed meeting with speakers including Karen Hill (NNDC Housing) John Archibald (Victory) plus representatives from Saffron Housing and JS Hay Construction. We were told that we are on the verge of a housing crisis throughout the Country and this is the reason for some of the current central government’s pronouncements (presumption in favour of development etc.). North Norfolk has an extra problem with the highest house prices this side of Central Cambridge or Metropolitan Essex. It is recognised that second home owners are a major contributor to this problem (“Social Housing” and Second Homes both having approximately 10% of the housing stock each) but at the moment the NNDC strategic planners do not appear to have the stomach to attempt to address the problem. The main thrust of the day seemed to be to encourage Parish Councils to assist in the search for suitable sites for affordable housing, and also to encourage their residents to accept it as positive. On the journey home Greg and I agreed that in Wells the first part of the equation is adequately covered by *Homes for Wells*.
- 3) At the time of writing we also have one other meeting scheduled – called by Holkham to discuss emergency evacuation procedures from the Pinewoods, the Beach and the Beach car park. We may have more to report on this at the meeting.
- 4) Greg sent the letter discussed at the last meeting to the MMO inviting a representative to the Annual Town Meeting on 23 April. They have acknowledged, saying they will “let us know”.
- 5) We have received official notification from Anglian Water of the hose pipe ban which comes into force on 5 April. In the regulations, *Allotment Gardens* are specifically included as areas where hosepipes may not be used. I will write to the allotment holders pointing this out. [Currently our own regulations allow the use of hosepipes to fill water containers, but not for general watering of allotments].
- 6) Roger Arguile and Pauline Catton have both accepted the invitation to become co-opted Councillors. By the time you read this, they will have signed their papers and been given a great wodge of standing orders/financial regulations/code of conduct etc. to read. Please advise if you would like to re-familiarise yourself with any of these.
- 7) The draw for the summer car park rota will take place just before the April Meeting.
- 8) Note the enclosed correspondence re the East End Drying Grounds.....

Keith Leesmith Town Clerk 01328 710564
clerk@wellstowncouncil.org.uk



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