

## **REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR, PETER TERRINGTON,**

**2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2015:**

**ELECTION FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL:** This is my penultimate report as I have decided not to stand for re-election to NNDC. For new candidates, election details can be found on Council website: <http://www.northnorfolk.org/council/13848.asp>

**WIDER ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS:** The Council held sessions at various venues in February, including Fakenham. Topics included a presentation from National Association of Councils, a planning forum and the election process and timetable. The events were well attended by parish and town councillors. Democratic services have offered to attend a meeting with Wells Town Councillors.

### **BIG SOCIETY FUND AND ENABLING FUND:**

The budget assumes the continuation of the Big Society Fund and related costs and grant scheme, funded by the second homes income which is returned to the districts. Although these have been revised down in line with the reduction of the County share of the second funding that is returned to the districts (25% of the discretionary element compared to 50% in previous years). Applications will need to reach the Council by 11th May 2015 in order to go to the Big Society Fund Grant Panel in June 2015.

**GROWBIZ EVENT:** NNDC and New Anglia LEP held a very successful event at The Thursford Collection Garden Pavilion covering business funding, support and skills. Over 90 businesses attended, unfortunately very few from the Wells Area. Details of funding and support for businesses can be found on the Council's website: <http://www.northnorfolk.org/business/10246.asp>

**NORTH NORFOLK, SEACIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION:** A meeting took place in the Maltings on 26<sup>th</sup> February. All stakeholders are invited. Topics discussed: Measures to limit catches of Whelks and Sea Bass. EIFCA. NN Coastal Path next stage. Marine Conservation Zones and Marine Protected areas. For further information contact Suzanne Painting: [Suzanne.painting@cefas.co.uk](mailto:Suzanne.painting@cefas.co.uk). Seal Mortalities off the NN Coast. Scepticism was expressed in relating the findings of the latest report by the Sea Mammal Research Unit to the situation in North Norfolk.

Link: <http://www.smru.st-and.ac.uk/documents/2173.pdf>

### **LATEST NEWS RELEASES:**

LINK TO NNDC WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.NORTHNORFOLK.ORG/COUNCIL/NEWS.ASP](http://www.northnorfolk.org/council/news.asp)

### **CABINET MEETING, FEBRUARY:**

**MANAGING PERFORMANCE QUARTER 3 2014/15:** The delivery of the Annual Action Plan is progressing according to plan but there are a very few performance issues in achieving targets and achieving improvement.

**ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2015-16:** Cabinet resolved to approve the Annual Action Plan 2015-16 and the targets and recommendations for performance indicators.

**2015/16 BUDGET REPORT:** Cabinet agree and recommend to Full Council:

- 1) The 2015/16 revenue budget.
- 2) The surplus of £462,424 be allocated to the general reserve and restructuring and invest to save reserve.
- 3) The demand on the Collection Fund, subject to any amendments as a result of final precepts still to be received:
  - a. £5,307,071 for District purposes
  - b. £1,716,441 (subject to confirmation of the final precepts) for Parish/Town Precepts.

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2015/16:** RESOLVED to recommend to Council: That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement is approved.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP) UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2015:** resolved: to enable the Council's property portfolio to be enhanced to ensure that the assets remain fit for purpose in relation to service provision and also that their income generating capacity is protected and enhanced. (Implications for Wells)

**PARTNERSHIP OF MARITIME AUTHORITIES IN NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK:** RESOLVED: To agree the principle of relevant maritime local authorities (NNDC, Waveney District Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk), working together to develop a suitable partnership model towards the establishment of a shared coastal management service.

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS:** Resolved: To obtain clarification regarding the Council's aspirations in relation to the potential future installation of EVCPs within the district.

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MEETING, FEBRUARY:**

**2015/16 BUDGET REPORT:** The Committee endorsed the cabinet's recommendation.

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2015/16:** The Committee endorsed the cabinet's recommendation.

**MANAGING PERFORMANCE QUARTER 3 2014/15:** Committee members queried the delay in bringing forward an Energy strategy, congratulated the enforcement board in bringing empty properties (517) back into use, were disappointed with the number of affordable houses delivered (74) and queried the need to continue with The Housing Incentive Scheme and asked for a standard protocol for obtaining Section 106 Agreements. There are no plans to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy.

**ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2015-16:** Various comments were made:

The need to bring forward The Energy Strategy and include Fracking.

The need to support and develop neighbourhood plans.

Need to deliver more affordable homes.

More emphasis needed on how to maintain the integrity of special landscape designations.

Need to maintain a regular dialogue and work with Town and Parish Councils, especially on planning matters.

**FULL COUNCIL DECISIONS, FEBRUARY:**

**2015/16 BUDGET REPORT:** An amendment to put £70,000 in an earmarked reserve to enable the Council to engage with Norfolk county council with a view to keep the household waste recycling sites in Wells and North Walsham open, every day, free of charge for the benefit of residents and in the interests of the environment of the district, was defeated. The budget was approved.

**PAY POLICY 2015/16 AND LIVING WAGE RECOMMENDATIONS:** The pay policy and recommendations to pay the living wage from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 were approved.

**WELLS MATTERS:**

**CO-OP RETAIL STORE, POLKA RD, WELLS:** Re conditions 6&7 of planning consent: to establish local supply chains and promote businesses, in and around Wells. The Council's enforcement Officer is investigating. No further information.

**PROPOSED FILLING STATION, POLKA RD, WELLS:** No further information.

**ENFORCEMENT BOARD UPDATE:**

**CLARENCE HOUSE:** Planning application received. The amended scheme, as part of the application, is out to consultation • The Improvement notice automatically passes onto new owners.

**MARYLAND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE:** No further action at present.

**OLD GRAIN STORE:** A planning application was submitted for this site, but has been withdrawn. No further information.

**Gifts Galore site:** This site is now under consideration by the Enforcement Board. 18 February 2015 • Action: Planning to provide an update.

**BEACH ROAD TOILETS:** Funds have been allocated from the 2015/16 Budget to commission a study to consider the commercial development opportunities for generating income and a return for the Council from Wells Public Convenience site. No further information.

## **COASTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE:**

**Flood Defence, Wells Quay/East Quay:** I have contacted THE REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE (RFCC), which has responsibility to ensure there are coherent plans for identifying, communicating and managing flood risks across shorelines. Norman Lamb has taken up the case for improved defences and has written to the Chief executive of Norfolk County Council and the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency.

*N.B. WHILST THIS REPORT INCLUDES A SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL, ANY VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE ELECTED, INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR PRIORY WARD AND NOT THOSE OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL. THE REPORT INCLUDES INFORMATION GAINED FROM DISCUSSION WITH INDIVIDUAL STAKEHOLDERS, ORGANISATIONS AND STATUTORY BODIES AND IS MENTIONED IN THE INTERESTS OF OPENNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC LIFE.*