

Report from District Councillor, Peter Terrington, 6th Jan. 2014

Wells Matters:

Proposed Co-op Retail Store, Polka Rd, Wells: Discussions are taking place re. The illuminated signage for the retail store.

Proposed Fuel Station, Polka Rd, Wells: A discharge of condition application has been received by the planning officer and is currently under consideration. **No further information.**

Alternative Lorry/Coach Park:

Jonathan and I have emphasised to Duncan Ellis, Head of Assets & Leisure, the necessity to find alternative parking for lorries and coaches, before the start of the 2014 tourist season. **Jonathan has subsequently emailed the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Assets, Rhodri Oliver.**

Pinewoods Holiday Park Extension: Application withdrawn, pending an Environmental Impact Assessment. **No further information.**

Redevelopment of the Gifts Galore site: The Council is aware that there is a dispute relating to access to this site. **No further information.**

Enforcement Board Update:

Clarence House: Schedule 3 notice was dispatched saying Council will do works in default from November 2014. There is a hole in the roof and the next stage will be to seek a warrant to allow forcible entry to assess the work needed.

Maryland Industrial Estate: Some units are occupied and business rates are being collected. Other units are unregistered and there is doubt as to ownership. A Section 215 Notice cannot, therefore, be served. Attempts are being made to establish ownership.

Old Grain Store, Maryland: At the request of WTC, I have asked the Enforcement Board to add this to its portfolio. **I can confirm that Environmental Health officers will be visiting the derelict property at Maryland and will be reporting their findings back to the Enforcement Board in the New Year.**

The Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for Wells: This is still 'on the books'. Taken to public consultation and adopted it may well prove a useful mechanism for the management of the built environment and setting in future.

OTHER Matters:

PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER ON LAND AT

EGMERE: The Ecological Survey and Landscape Visual Impact Assessment, and Access Strategy are outstanding pieces of work to be completed. The recommendation for the signing off of the LDO has yet to be brought to Full Council. **No further information.**

Proposed Learning centre, Lady Anne's Drive, Holkham: Twelve objections, to this application, have been received and Natural England and the Norfolk Coast partnership have expressed concerns regarding possible impacts of increased visitor pressure.

Scrutiny Committee 11th Dec

Urgent Business: Response to Tidal Surge: NNDC staff were congratulated on the work to ensure the safety of our residents during this period. A great effort was made, both to coordinate with members of the public, the police and other agencies, as well as having people on the ground in rest centres and working with flood wardens. Officers touring the properties, after the event, to offer advice and guidance regarding disposal of waste etc. - as well as business support advice for affected businesses. A Flood Appeal was established and an application process was instigated, with an immediate target to support domestic households in need, but businesses that have suffered will be eligible to apply. The considerable damage to defences and other structures was acknowledged, some will be covered by insurance claims. I commented that future consideration must be given to reviewing Shoreline Management Plans, surge prediction modelling and mobile phone coverage.

VICTORY HOUSING – DISPOSALS PROGRAMME

The Committee received a presentation from Darryl Cox, Deputy Chief Executive of Victory Housing Trust, regarding its disposals policy. Whilst appreciating the need for the policy, I expressed the concerns raised regarding the impact of the disposals policy on Wells. I subsequently received an email from John Archibald, CEO of Victory Housing, noting my opposition to the policy.

BIG SOCIETY FUND AND ENABLING FUND: I thanked the Cabinet for its decision to award a £150,000 grant, to homes for Wells, for conversion of the former Field Studies centre to affordable Housing.

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

Sue Lake of NALC made an excellent presentation regarding parish and town councils in the district. The slides covering her presentation are attached separately.

HOUSING BENEFIT AND COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT COUNTER FRAUD POLICY AND PROSECUTION POLICY: The new policy was approved.

FULL COUNCIL DECISIONS 18.12.13.

Determination of council Tax Discounts and Charges for 2014/15: The recommendations of the report were approved, including a levy of 50% OF Council Tax, on properties which have been empty for two years.

Determination Of the Council tax Base for 2014/15: The report establishing the Council Tax Base for 2014/15 was approved.

FEES AND CHARGES 2014/15: The Cabinet recommendation for a new schedule of fees and charges was approved.

Latest News Releases:

Link to NNDC website:

<http://www.northnorfolk.org/council/news.asp>

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.