

## **Report from District Councillor, Peter Terrington, 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2013**

**Proposed Co-op Retail Store, Polka Rd, Wells:** Approval is nearly ready to be issued; most of the conditions have been drafted. It is unlikely that conditions will include free town centre car parking spaces for shoppers. A drinks licence has been applied for by the Co-op.

**Coach/Lorry parking, Polka Rd, Wells:** Application for a filling station is with officers, awaiting a flood risk assessment. The Environment Agency is maintaining its objection in relation to groundwater protection. They have advised that it is their policy to object in principle to any new developments involving sub water table storage on Principal or Secondary Aquifers. In relation to flood risk the EA have advised that they will be providing no further comments. The Council's Emergency Planner has not raised an objection to the application.

**Market Lane Development:** Jonathan and I will ensure that the WTC views are presented to officers and members of the Development Committee.

**North Norfolk Renewables Partnership/B1105 Renewable Energy Development Corridor:** Cabinet has recommended the designation of a "Local Development Area" catering for the offshore wind energy industry on 30 ha. of land at Egmere. There are opportunities and risks: Inward investment into the area and employment opportunities are to be welcomed, but the proposal will reduce the opportunity for public participation in planning decisions and any development at Egmere and will increase pressure on the use of Wells Harbour. Adequate safeguards are required to protect the nature of the Heritage Coastline (An Appropriate Assessment may be required) and protect recreation use of the Harbour. Furthermore, I feel that the LDO should not be considered in isolation, but should form part of a wider Area Action Plan, covering the entire Renewables Energy Corridor. Other related proposals include: A solar wind farm at Egmere (Former North Creake Airfield) which has been withdrawn but is likely to be re-submitted on an adjoining field. An application has been approved for a proposed biogas anerobic digestion plant on an adjacent site.

**Car Parking provision in Wells:** NNDC car parking charges will be reviewed as part of the annual budget process for 2013/14. I have requested that the portfolio holder concerned, to consider making the first 30 minutes, on the Staithe Street car park, free to shoppers.

**North Norfolk, European Maritime Site:** The NN, EMS, Advisory Group meets, in the Maltings at Wells, on 7<sup>th</sup> February. The meetings of the AG are attended by representatives from Parish Councils and other interested organisations. There are issues of local interest on the agenda. The AG is looking to appoint a new secretary.

### **WHC, January Newsletter: (Harbour Website and the Quay Magazine.)**

I fully endorse the call, in The Harbour January Newsletter, to widen the debate on the development of Wells Harbour. The timing is very opportune, both in resolving the outstanding issues relating to the "Harbour Deepening Project" and in considering future dredging operations. It is a great opportunity for directly elected public representatives and the Wells Harbour Commissioners, to work together and ensure that the whole community benefits from inward investment by the offshore wind energy industry. It is essential that all discussions are carried out with openness and transparency, balancing the needs of all interest groups, protecting the unique quality of Heritage Coastline and preserving the Common Law Rights of stakeholders.

**Integrated Coastal Zone Management:** There is a meeting of the Coastal Issues Forum on 5<sup>th</sup> February. The meeting is open to town and parish councils. Coastal Tourism features on the agenda, which is an important topic for Wells.

**Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG):** Concerns have been raised by the FLAG committee regarding the impact of two further offshore wind farms on the fishing industry. A number of projects (11), to support the local fishing industry, have received funding of £872,000.

**Outlook Magazine:** As part of the cost savings, the Outlook Magazine is likely to be scrapped.

### **Full Council Decisions – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013**

1. Confirmation of appointment of CEO and Corporate Directors.
2. Three members were appointed to a joint revenues and benefits partnership committee (NNDC/KL&WNDC).

### **Cabinet recommendations 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013:**

- 1a. Approval of budget account with transfer of £240,009 to general reserve.
- 1b. The demand on collection fund be £5,082,610 for District purposes and £1,450,000 for Town/Parish precepts.
- 1c. Approve new scale of fees and charges.
2. Charges for waste services be delegated to Corporate Director.

### **OTHER NEWS:**

**Health Walks Fit Together:** NNDC, along with other local authorities are promoting Health Walks through Active Norfolk. A series of walks take place each week. A Wells East Quay Walk was held on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. from the Wells Community Hospital, with about thirty people taking part.

**East of England Marine Plan:** The formal 12 week public consultation on the draft marine plan for the East of England – the first of its kind in the UK – is expected to begin in Spring 2013. MMO will inform of the consultation start date as soon as possible following Secretary of State approval.

**Quayside Development:** No further work has taken place on Gifts Galore site since the Stop Order was issued. There are a number of issues delaying progress on this site. Development has started on the former Gray's Amusement site to divert the sewer.

**Weather situation update:** The Council does not grit Car parks but the salt/grit bins, on Council owned car parks, have been replenished. An email from the WTC Clerk has been forwarded to the Council.

**Bin Collections - Monday 21st January:** All bin collections are back to normal. The contractors coped very well with the severe weather conditions.

**Winter Warm Packs/Heater Loan:** The Council has received a delivery of more winter packs. They are being distributed to vulnerable people through GP surgeries, district nurses and other voluntary groups such as the Red Cross and Age UK North Norfolk. The Council has some heaters available to Town and Parish Councils which may wish to loan to vulnerable people.