

Annual Report from District Councillor, Peter Terrington

Affordable Housing: Four possible sites for a development in Wells have been identified and positive discussions have taken place with landowners, and housing associations and trusts. I am hopeful that at least one scheme will reach the planning stage later this year.

Marine Plans: The coastline is coming under increased development pressure and an integrated coastal management policy is urgently required, which is fair, open and transparent. The proposed East Marine Plan may provide such a framework, but is essential that local people make their views known on how they would like to see plans developed. The latest report can be viewed on the MMO website. www.marinemangement.org.uk/marineplanning. There is a meeting of the Coastal Issues Forum tomorrow when there will be further discussion of Marine Plans.

Quayside Development: Progress on redevelopment of the former amusement arcade is progressing well, demolition is complete and building should commence in the autumn. However, it is disappointing that work on the neighbouring Yellow Shop is further delayed but the Council is working hard to try and move things along.

Proposed Supermarket: An application has been submitted for a Co-op supermarket, in Wells, on the former garden centre site on the Polka. The chairman of the Wells Town Council summed up, in the EDP, the dilemma facing the planning authority on this project. It is very important that residents in the surrounding parishes make their views known on this matter. The application can be viewed on the NNDC website. <http://www.northnorfolk.org/planning/3939.asp>. Application no. **PF/12/0418**.

North Norfolk Renewables Partnership: The Council has approved the setting up of a partnership between NNDC, Wells Harbour Commissioners, Holkham Estate, Walsingham Estate and the North Norfolk Business Forum, to support wind energy investment along the B1105 corridor from Wells to Fakenham. There is a recognition that the need for development must balance the sustainability of environmental designations and support the role of Wells as an important tourist and visitor destination.

Refuge collection: The collection of brown garden waste bins was unfortunately suspended during the fuel crisis. The Council; apologises for this and measures are being put in place to improve communication in future and stock pile fuel reserves.

Staff restructuring: The Council has continued its cost cutting measures by reducing the numbers of senior managers employed. Further restructuring is taking place.

Car parking: The District's free vehicle parks have been offered to the relevant town councils to run. In Wells this relates to the Polka Road bus and lorry park. There is some interest for the alternative use of the site as a fuel station but no firm proposals have been announced.

Derelict Land: There are a number of derelict or unused properties in Wells which are causing concern. A scheme to compulsory purchase such property is being piloted in the east of the District and, if successful, could be extended to Wells.

Localism: The Council is committed to the Localism Act and I very much support this view. I am very keen to work with Town and Parish councils to produce their own Neighbourhood Plans, through which local people can have a much greater input in planning and decision making.

Community Asset Transfer Policy: The Council is producing a draft policy as a basis for consultation with community groups, town and parish councils to consider requests for transfer of Council assets.

Section 106 Contributions associated with Retail developments: The Council is recommended to adopt a policy for negotiating Section 106 contributions for all new retail developments.