

### **North Norfolk Big Society Fund**

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Voluntary and community organisations within North Norfolk may apply for Big Society Fund grants to support their projects. Full information including contact details are given in the Fund's page on the District Council website <http://bit.ly/cllr-fitzpatrick-BSE>. It is worth making contact at an early stage to discuss your application. The officers are very happy to give help and advice with any application.

Applications to go to the 4th December 2017 Big Society Fund Grant Panel will need to be submitted by the 6th November 2017.

### **Graham Allen Award winners announced**

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The Graham Allen Award is presented annually by North Norfolk District Council to the project considered to make the most significant contribution to the built environment within the district.

Previous winners have included the extension to Binham Priory, the refurbishment of the Gunton Arms on the edge of Thorpe Market and Hootz House at Pensthorpe Natural Park.

This year's overall winner was Wild Acres, on Holt Road, Heydon. The project involved the demolition of a bungalow and the clever re-siting and building of a new four bedroomed home using crisp and contemporary architecture. It was praised by judges for its intelligent reaction to site context, topography and landscape setting; visual interest portrayed by the curved form; low lying position and shallow pitch ensuring a discreet presence; and sustainable technology including ground source heating.

Other projects which won awards were:

Highly Commended – Thursford Castle, Thursford Road, Great Snoring.

Commended – The Reading Rooms, Church Road, Alby, owned by Simon and Joanne Williams.

### **North Norfolk businesses to benefit from more than £1m in rate relief**

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Lower bills will be sent out automatically over the next few weeks.

About 850 businesses across North Norfolk are in line to benefit from rate reliefs of more than £1m over the next five years thanks to the introduction of three schemes. Businesses that have seen their rates go up following recent revaluations as well as pubs are amongst the beneficiaries of the schemes, which have been given the green light by North Norfolk District Council. The money has come from central government but it is down to local authorities such as NNDC to draw up plans to distribute the funds. The largest chunk of money will come in the form of the Local Discretionary Revaluation Relief scheme. This fund – worth more than £900,000 in North Norfolk – is designed to

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help businesses that received steep rises in their bills following rate revaluations earlier this year. The decision by the District Council means about 700 businesses should be receiving new, lower bills under this scheme alone, highlighting that North Norfolk is a better place to do business.

Supporting Small Businesses Relief is also aimed at helping businesses that were hit by the recent change in rateable values. It is specifically targeted at businesses that saw the loss of Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rate Relief because of the revaluation process.

Meanwhile, it is thought that about 80 pubs will be better off thanks to Pub Relief.

Councillor Vincent FitzPatrick

Priory Ward

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk>