

North Norfolk Tourism overview and Management Forum

**Inaugural meeting – Monday 23rd November 2015
Cromer Town Council Chamber, North Lodge**

Present:- Roger Arguile (Wells) Chair, Tim Adams (Cromer), Jim Bond (Cromer), Julie Chance (Cromer), Rodney Crafer (Wells), John Frosdick (Cromer), Greg Hewitt (Wells), Jonathan Parke (Mundesley), Brenda Stibbons (Cromer) Rosemary Thew (Blakeney) & Janet Warner (Cromer)

Introduction

The purpose of the forum was outlined. The objective, to look at any areas of shared interest where Towns and Parishes could work together collectively to make change or bring about improvement.

The following issues were discussed:

Rubbish/litter collection and overflowing bins

Museum funding

Maintenance of green spaces and funding cuts

Loss of public transport

Parking/Parking Enforcement & Parking Meters

Resident parking

Neighbourhood Plan & North Norfolk District Council's proposed new Local Plan

Traffic Management

Environment: Saltmarsh/Wildlife

Silting and dredging of Blakeney Harbour

Second homes and affordable housing

Second Homes Council Tax

Holiday homes

Public Toilets

The following areas of interest were identified as important and worth pursuing.

- **Second Homes Council Tax**

With so many parishes inundated with second homes it was agreed representation should be made to central government asking that all or some of the money from the second homes council tax should be made available directly to parishes for local projects that benefit the parishes and residents directly. Currently the money goes to Norfolk County Council with a proportion being returned to NNDC. NNDC use their share for the Big Society Fund.

- Affordable Homes (Allocation & Right to Buy)
There is a significant shortage of affordable homes in the district. However, where there are affordable homes available, due to government allocation policies, local residents do not always qualify. Furthermore, proposed changes to right to buy policies could result in fewer houses being available and could seriously impact on local housing charities. Additionally, there are concerns at the apparent ease with which developers can absolve themselves of their responsibility to provide a proportion of affordable housing by claiming financial viability complications.
- Neighbourhood Plans
The adoption of Neighbourhood Plans by parishes could significantly influence the new proposed NNDC Local Plan and help enact local planning policies that may deal with many of the issues impacting parishes such as parking and traffic management. Money and assistance should be available from Government and District, together with advice and guidance.

Resolution

- To arrange a meeting at Cromer in February to which all the North Norfolk Parishes will be invited.
- To seek support from all the parishes to canvass for government action regarding Second Homes Council Tax and Affordable Housing (allocation & right to buy). It would also be beneficial to involve the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC).
- To arrange a presentation at the meeting from an independent consultant concerning the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Actions

Julie Chance – Circulate information concerning the Second Homes Council Tax, liaise with the Neighbourhood Planning consultant and arrange a meeting date and venue for February.

Greg Hewitt – Circulated minutes, contact NALC and invited parish representatives to the next meeting.

All Members - to report back to their individual parishes and seek approval.