

Report

Staff Departures

Yesterday we said a fond farewell to Peter Battrick our Communications Manager who is retiring after over 8 years at the Council. His leaving presentation was attended by many and it was also great to see Richard Batson our local EDP editor attend to wish him well. Other recent departures include Chris Cawley, Ian Wheeler and Barry Brandford who have all left for different reasons and we wish them all well in their future endeavors.

Recruitment – Head of Economic and Community Development

I am delighted to let you know that following a competitive interview process we have made an internal appointment to the Head of Service and Rob Young is the successful candidate. There was strong competition and some excellent candidates so I am sure you will wish to join me in congratulating Rob in this well-deserved promotion.

It was a joint selection process between NNDC and the Managing Director of the Local Enterprise Partnership as the role is accountable to the LEP one day per week. The reason for this slight change is to enhance and strengthen our relationship with the LEP, this being the body which is responsible for delivering growth and developing the economy for Norfolk and Suffolk and who will be responsible for allocating significant amounts of government funding in the future. I therefore see this as a very important appointment and one which is fully endorsed by the LEP.

It does mean however that there will still be a resource deficit in the team in that Rob's post will become vacant and this is something we will be discussing over the next few days. The start date for the new appointment is 21 July.

Flood Support Scheme update:

We have now received 189 applications to the Flood Support Scheme and granted nearly £290,000 to those that have been assessed; the emphasis is now very much dealing with them as quickly as possible so that the funds are in the hands of those who need them. We continue to offer assistance to anyone who needs advice or help to complete an application form, and while a small number of new applications are still being received the team is now considering taking a more proactive approach to gather any missing properties' applications, including leaflet drops, further surgeries and door to door visits. Again thanks to all those who have been involved in this excellent piece of work which has had to be accommodated amongst all other day to day work.

Big Society Fund:

Since it was launched late in 2012 the North Norfolk Big Society Fund has distributed nearly £900,000 to over 90 community based projects, supporting local initiatives across the District. To mark this impressive achievement a special awards event is to be held at The Atrium on 15 July. Hosted by NNDC Chairman Trevor Ivory, awards will be given for

- Outstanding contribution to the community by a local business
- Outstanding contribution to a Big Society Funded project
- Outstanding contribution by a young person to a Big Society Funded project
- Community project of the year

The winners are being chosen from a long list of nominations and it is the Big Society Panel who have to make these difficult decisions. Congratulations to all the projects and my huge thanks to all the staff who have contributed to the success of this scheme, particularly Sonia Shuter and Sharon Garth who have worked hard supporting the Panel.