

## Report to Wells Town Council – January 2016

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### Planning

I have been informed that the application for the proposed development at the site of the former grain store / coal yard on Maryland has been withdrawn by the applicant. The application for change of use for Sunnyside Cottage on the Buttlands has been amended by the applicant to include additional off-site parking. I am consulting with the case officer on the latter application.

### Wells and Cromer Benefit from £100,000 Government Grant

Two heritage sites in North Norfolk have each been awarded £50,000 under the national Coastal Revival Fund. Here in Wells, the grant will be used towards developing a community space, heritage and learning centre, auditorium, café and central box office and tourist information centre within the Maltings.

Becky Jefcoate, Wells Maltings Project Development Manager, said: “We are very excited to hear the good news about the Coastal Revival Fund, which will help us transform the Maltings into a landmark visitor attraction next year for local people and visitors to enjoy.”

The Cromer grant will be used by North Norfolk District Council to support the renovation and rejuvenation of the Cromer West promenade Art Deco chalet block. The block was severely damaged in the storms which ravaged the North Norfolk coast in December 2013.

### Latest Big Society Fund Grants Agreed

The latest round of Big Society Fund grants have been agreed, with North Norfolk District Council supporting a wide range of groups, including musicians, young footballers and girl guides. NNDC's Big Society Fund offers grants of up to £15,000 to voluntary and community organisations based in North Norfolk. Since the fund started in 2012, in excess of £1,000,000 has been awarded to more than 100 community projects. The committee which oversees the grants meets four times a year. This time they approved grants totalling nearly £27,500.

Councillors could perhaps help spread the word and encourage community groups from Wells to apply for funding. I am very happy to speak with any groups about this funding. Alternatively groups can get in touch with NNDC (via Sonia Shuter tel. 01263 516173, email [supporting.communities@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:supporting.communities@north-norfolk.gov.uk)) or visit [www.northnorfolk.org/big society fund](http://www.northnorfolk.org/big society fund)

**The next round of applications closes on 8 February 2016.**

### Pigs in the Park

Countryside rangers at North Norfolk District Council have struck up a deal with a Norfolk pig grazier to help reduce dense bracken and bramble in a section of Holt Country Park. The innovative approach to keeping bramble and bracken at bay will see six Large Black Pigs let free to munch their way through the undergrowth. If left to grow unchecked the bracken and bramble would smother out other species of plant and make it harder for them to flourish.

Cllr Becky Palmer, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture at North Norfolk District Council said: “I think this is fantastic. It makes perfect sense to use the pigs’ natural instincts to curb the dense bracken and bramble and I hope that this idea really catches on for other areas of the district.