

Report

North Norfolk Big Society Fund

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: bit.ly/cllr-vfitzpatrick-BSF. 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.

Today was the closing date for applications to go to the Big Society Fund Grant Panel on the 6th March 2017.

New NNDC Website

Visit our new website at <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/>

Community Housing Fund

As I reported to your previous meeting, funding has been allocated to North Norfolk from this fund to support communities affected by second homes ownership. Thanks to NNDC lobbying, the Council has been awarded over £2.4m which is second biggest award despite us being the 4th most badly affected Council. However, payment of 50% of this depends on a satisfactory delivery plan being submitted. This plan will cover targeting of the award to parishes where the percentage of holiday and second homes is 10% or more. Today Cabinet delegated officers to produce the delivery plan to ensure that we can take maximum advantage of this award.

Mr Arguile will be pleased to hear that this plan starts the process of producing details of the use and allocation of money – the sort of information he wanted from our email exchanges in January.

I note that the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Cllr Price has replied to the invitation to visit WTC stating that “input from and communication with all the the Town and Parish Councils and communities involved will play an important role”.

Commercialisation of Assets – Planning for the Future.

NNDC is in a sound financial position but it must be prudent and plan for a future where available funding will be severely challenged. To this end, Cabinet approved the appointment of a consortium to advise the Council on Commercialisation of assets. The consortium will advise on the commercialisation of four of the Council's assets:

- Grove Lane Depot Site, Holt
- Highfield Car Park, Fakenham

Councillor Vincent FitzPatrick

- Beach Road Toilets, Wells
- Cadogan Road Car Park, Cromer

The aim is to produce a future income stream from assets for the benefit of residents. Where assets are being sold, this will finance the purchase of other income generating assets. First of all, let me stress that at this stage **there are no plans and there are no detailed proposals**. Today's decision has appointed a strategic property development partner to look at options for the sites and draw up plans.

For obvious reasons, I will concentrate on the Beach Road Toilets. I see this as a major win for Wells – the provision of toilets fit for the 21st century! Toilets that would cope with existing and future demand. The provision of facilities for the disabled – including a “Changing Place” - aligns with Wells' desire to become a “dementia friendly destination”.

Another win for Wells is removing an eyesore from Beach Road, namely the existing toilets.

The next steps will drawing up of detailed plans for the Beach Road site, involving discussions with Wells Town Council and public consultation and then followed by the submission of formal planning applications

Let's use this opportunity wisely and get loos that Wells can be proud of!

Councillor Vincent FitzPatrick
Priory Ward