

Dear Greg,

I'm afraid I'm snowed under electioneering and unable to make tonight's meeting. Here is my report:

North Norfolk has been awarded 6 Blue flag beaches, the new list now includes both the runtons and makes us now first equal district in England with so many great beaches, congratulations to all involved.

Some of you may have read in the media about the plans for the re-generation of the Splash site in Sheringham. The scheme includes a replacement swimming pool, a gym, a hotel and or retail units. It is estimated to cost £8 million raised through a loan with a 30yr term at an interest rate of £250k p.a. These ambitious plans were heard by Scrutiny in May and set to go before cabinet in June. The financial case proves a replacement is preferable with the current running costs of the existing facility estimated at £500k p.a. It is clear the district needs jobs and facilities, this scheme will hopefully provide both.

The council has collected some 96% of council tax and business rates this financial year, its best results for ten years. It is essential this money is collected in good time to fund the provision of key services.

The first meeting of the working group for the beach road happened recently- which I'm sure has been discussed tonight. It was productive however I think it is better not to fight any kind of development but to put all our efforts in to a scheme which will benefit Wells and be sustainable in the long term. The council supposes the new site will yield a 3% return on investment which will be somewhere in the region on £50k p.a. The whole idea is to support the councils financial shortfall so the best performing scheme with the most sensitive design will hopefully be accepted however there is a lot of work to do.

Apologies but look forward to seeing you next month,

Cllr Simon Hester