

## **November Update From North Norfolk Town and Parish Forum**

It has been an exciting time for the Executive Committee of the forum and I am pleased to say we have taken a very important step in the Second Homes council Tax Campaign which we have been running on your behalf.

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November at the NALC AGM, through Cromer and Sheringham Town Councils we proposed a motion that NALC would take this campaign forward and lobby parliament to ensure that there is a fair and equal distribution of the revenue created by Second Homes Council Tax to those communities adversely impacted by high levels of second homes. This was passed overwhelmingly by the Councils represented on the night.

Secondly the DCLG motion that we circulated recently has gone in and through National ALC we're starting to collect the evidence for this to be followed through with the DCLG. A survey will arrive in the new year from National ALC asking you for information re the impact of second homes in your parish. Please complete this as far as you are able to help us gather a comprehensive picture of our area as part of this national campaign.

As a result of concerns raised with the Forum by Town and Parish Councils we recently asked you to tell us of any issues which you have. Feedback that has come in shows these are the main areas of concern for local councils

- A lack of contact details on the NNDC website and poor responses to complaints and concerns from NNDC council officers.
- Failure to empty dog bins by Kier frequently enough.
- Issues with inadequate grounds maintenance of open spaces and pest control.(Kier Contract )
- Planning: 1.site notices not automatically sent out, 2.accessing plans which are no longer printed in large enough scale for site visits and discussion, 3.time targets difficult to meet and additional cost to town and parish councils, 4.post implementation review .

A meeting is due to take place with the NNTPF and Steve Blatch **What's his proper title?** NNDC in Early January, where we will be raising your concerns. If as a council you have not yet responded but wish to do so please do send your concerns to Julie Chance at [clerk@cromer-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cromer-tc.gov.uk)

It has also been encouraging to see how many of you are using the NNTPF as a way of having a voice and a more powerful voice for the first tier of local government. As a result of some of the concerns you have expressed to us and changes which are taking place with NNDC and NCC we have become aware that local councils are having to think about how they can operate on a more business based model. You are having to look at ways in which you can ensure the beautiful environment and local services, on which our tourist based local economy depends, can be maintained so as to continue to contribute to local economic growth.. We would appreciate if you could complete the 5 minute survey below as the following information would be very useful in helping us to determine how we can best represent and support you through these changes. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X67WJJ7>

If as a council you have not become involved in the NNTPF and would like to find out more or join us, then please don't hesitate to contact Julie as above.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful Christmas from us all on the Executive Committee of the NNTPF