

District Councillor's Report Sept 2024

From NNDC:

#### Planning

There will be further public consultation on any proposed changes to the New Local Plan towards the end of the year.

The Wells Neighbourhood Plan has been voted in at local referendum and should now be brought into force.

#### Benefits

Please contact the Financial Inclusion team at NNDC if you think you are missing out on any benefits - many are. Email [Financial.Inclusion@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Financial.Inclusion@north-norfolk.gov.uk). Pension credit is especially important at the moment with the new means testing of Winter Fuel payments. You may be eligible even if you own your own home or have savings. To check your eligibility for pension credit go to [gov.uk/pension-credit](http://gov.uk/pension-credit) or call 0800991234. You can also contact NNDC Social Prescribers for questions about isolation, finances, benefits, legal matters, and power of attorney.

#### Infrastructure

Construction of a new roundabout on the Fakenham bypass is due to get underway in October and last till spring 2025. This will facilitate the build of the housing development to the north of Fakenham. Some disruption to traffic along the A148 will unfortunately occur so I would check the Planned Roadworks page on the Norfolk County Council website if you're heading that way.

#### Environment

Through its collaboration with Animal Warden Services, NNDC has again won a gold RSCPA Pawprint award for the care and welfare of stray dogs.

#### Finance

NNDC is currently forecasting a budget deficit for 24/25 of £1.325million. Efficiencies are being sought in how essential services are provided and some non essential services, such as public toilets, are being scrutinised.'

#### Blakeney Surgery

Holt Medical Practice is working constructively with Blakeney Parish Council to find an alternate method of medicines collection.

#### Ambulance Response Times/Community First Responders

The North Norfolk Coastal Ambulance Response Times Working Group had a productive meeting with the ambulance trust. Response times vary with the delays in handing patients' care over to the hospitals. The ambulance trust is working hard to keep as many patients as possible in the community when it is safe so to do- latest figure is that they are only taking 40% to hospitals. We are keeping the two rapid response vehicles in Cromer and the cycle paramedic in Wells which are all critical to our emergency care. We are hugely fortunate to have excellent Community First Responders in our area but not all villages are covered. The Ambulance Trust is always very pleased to hear from residents who are interested in taking up this critical voluntary role. Email [CFR@eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:CFR@eastamb.nhs.uk) for more details.

#### NHS Dentistry in wells and Holt

The Health Board has agreed a 12-month emergency contract with Damira Dental Services to provide NHS dentistry in Wells and Holt from the end of September. This

should progress to a long-term contract. Damira will initially prioritise those patients who are waiting for completion of NHS treatment. To begin with, NHS provision will be provided from Holt, due to some refurbishment work in Wells.

#### Dementia care in the community

As part of my Chairman's Year at NNDC, I have been visiting some of the wonderful community groups helping those living with dementia and their carers. We are very fortunate to be so well served in North Norfolk. I am planning a seminar early next year to bring volunteers together to share good ideas and celebrate the fantastic work that is being done in our district to make lives better for dementia patients and their carers.