

## District Councillor's Report July 2024

From NNDC:

### Coastal

Eastlaw is hoping to recruit for a coastline and climate change transition lawyer on a fixed term basis to support the Coastwise initiative on coastal erosion.

Cromer and Mundesley Coastal Protection schemes are proceeding, with rock placement ongoing in Cromer and due to start in Mundesley.

### Planning

The General Election has delayed the release of the post hearings letter from the Planning Inspector. This will cover what's next for the new Local Plan.

82% of voters in the recent Wells Neighbourhood Plan voted in favour of the plan.

The £9.6 Nutrient Neutrality Mitigation Scheme, of which NNDC is a part, is open for bids to create solutions to the problem of excess phosphorus and nitrogen in our waterways caused by new housebuilding. This is important as the new government indicates a focus on building new homes and infrastructure.

Watch out for an upcoming consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework as it contains some important protections for our protected landscapes we would not want to see lost.

### Benefits

During April to July the Financial Inclusion team identified over £750k per annum of missed benefits and income for residents. They have also identified over £66k of missed Council Tax Support and missed Council Tax discounts.

We continue to administer Discretionary Housing Payments to support tenancies, prevent homelessness and allow residents to stay in their community. There is £100k to support households.

Do get in touch with me if you think you might be eligible for any of these.

You can also contact NNDC Social Prescribers for questions about isolation, finances, benefits, legal matters, and power of attorney.

### Housing

There are 2367 households on the housing list. Homelessness is still an issue. Almost half are due to loss of a private tenancy. However, the good news is there is a 25% reduction in households in temporary accommodation from last year.

NNDC are consulting on reviewing its Housing Allocations Scheme. This proposes to make changes in the way applications for social housing are assessed and prioritised. to determine who can join the housing register.

The consultation which runs till 19th August can be found at

<https://north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/consultations/housing-allocations-scheme-consultation/>

59 affordable houses should come on stream this year.

If your house needs adaptations to allow you to remain living in it there are increased Disabled Facilities Grants available so please get in touch.

### Licensing

A driver knowledge test has been prepared for new drivers of Private Hire and Hackney Carriages. This replaces the current interview process and covers the Highway Code, geographical knowledge of the district etc.

### Finances

The predicted out-turn for last year was a deficit of £0.9m. Future budget funding shortfalls are expected for this financial year and officers are looking at how services can be delivered more efficiently.

#### Estates

Work on rebuilding the Albert Street car parks begins soon and will last 12 weeks.

#### Sustainable growth

NNDC will be allocated its full amount of the UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Funds. So far £600k has been offered with £400k match funding from private investment.

#### Customer service

Waiting times for customer service increased significantly before the General Election with requests for postal votes etc and will remain high for a while.'

#### Blakeney Surgery

Holt Medical Practice is working with Blakeney Parish Council to find an alternate venue for medicines collection. We have chased our submission to the Secretary of State for Health requesting his intervention against the closure.

#### Dentistry

You can book an urgent appointment for dental pain via 111. The nearest urgent clinic for us is Fakenham. The system is working but the numbers coming from our area are small so please do spread the word. The Dental Bus for remote and rural areas is still only an idea which is disappointing.