

Cllr Callum Ringer – Gresham Ward

callum.ringer@north-norfolk.gov.uk - 07824381519

Serving the parishes of Aylmerton ; Baconsthorpe ; Bodham ; East Beckham ; Gresham ; Hempstead ; Little Barningham ; Matlaske ; Plumstead ; West Beckham



Councillor Report March 2024

Useful links to report concerns:

Below are a few useful links to report any issues related to North Norfolk District Council:

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/section/environment-emergencies/report-a-problem/>

And also for Norfolk County Council:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem>

It would be useful to look through these pages to give yourself an idea of the kinds of things each council has responsibility for.

Changes to waste collections from 8th April 2024

From 8th April 2024 there will be day/week changes to refuse collections for most residents. There will also be changes to the garden and trade waste collection rounds. There are several reasons why this is being done. The first, is that the location where the recycling waste is deposited is changing. Previously this was Aylsham but is now changing necessitating a review. The garden waste collections have not been reviewed for some years and have grown substantially to the point we have added a new freighter and round for this. This is the same for trade waste with an additional freighter. Residents will be notified of any changes throughout March. If there are any missed collections then please report these in the normal way. <https://forms.north-norfolk.gov.uk/outreach/missedbin.ofml> or call Serco direct 0330 109 9220.

There has been some media attention lately around the introduction of food waste collections. The government had announced that it would fund the start up costs for this; for food caddies and vehicles, however their valuation of this is significantly lower than we require and could leave us with a shortfall of over £1m. We have gone back to DEFRA with evidence that their sums don't add up and hopefully we will be able to introduce the service without having to burden our ratepayers with the costs of its introduction. More on this to follow as it develops.

Bank Hub – Holt

Great news recently was that LINK (the cashpoint providers) have announced that Holt will get a banking hub. This will ensure a high street presence and will see a number of banks occupy the branch on a different nominated day. Importantly this facility will handle cash unlike the desk only service that has been operating in the Holt community centre. The work to secure this was lead by Cllr Steffan Aquarone and supported by NNDC whose data analysis input served to justify the need to such a service. I hope to be able to share with you location and opening details as they emerge.

Barclays in Sheringham which was due to close in February will now continue to open in the short term whilst alternative measures are put in place for business customers.

Hornsea 3 community fund launch

In February the Hornsea 3 community fund was launched and details of the scheme are in the link below including the map which shows eligible areas. I believe the first round closes for applications in early May. I would be very happy to provide an endorsement letter to support any applications within the ward. <https://grantscape.org.uk/fund/hornsea-3-community-fund/hornsea-3-criteria/>

NNDC Budget Setting

The annual budget set the rates for the coming year. I don't need to remind people that all local government has been suffering from a shortage in government funding in recent years. On top of this, as I have mentioned in previous reports, we have seen an increase in demand for our services most notably temporary accommodation costs – a service that, rightly, we are legally obliged to provide. The NNDC element of council tax has increased by £4.95 for a band D property. NNDC only gets around 8p of every £1 in council tax with which to provide its services, the vast majority (75%) goes to the county council with the police and crime commissioner and parish councils making up the remainder. It was regrettable that one of the cuts we have had to make is to the sustainable communities fund, however we hope to re-introduce this as soon as we can afford to.

Gresham Ward Footpath Challenge

I am still plodding around ticking off footpaths and have now walked 48 footpaths around the ward over 54 miles. I have reported a dozen or so issues mainly related to signage being damaged, but in one case an obstruction.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in any way (details at the top of this report). I would also like copies of village newsletter if these can be sent to me by email that would be appreciated as I like to keep up to date with news and events across the patch.