**County Councillor Report for Holt Division**

**May 2022**

**Norfolk County Council owned companies encouraged to cut carbon**

This first item is one that I fully support. As from the 1st May I became the County Councils Cabinet Lead on the Environment and Waste.

Council-owned companies are being encouraged to reduce their carbon emissions, as part of the county council’s efforts to help Norfolk become carbon neutral.

Norse Group, Hethel Innovation Ltd, Repton Property Developments Ltd and Independence Matters are the focus of a report to the county council’s cabinet on 3 May.

Each company will be encouraged to set out carbon reduction targets once it better understands its own carbon footprint.

If cabinet backs the proposal, there will be a follow-up report which outlines the progress of each company in establishing specific carbon reduction targets**.**

**Further report to follow when initiates are instigated.**

**Uptake for apprenticeships in Norfolk continues upward trend**

The upward trend in apprenticeship starts is continuing to increase in Norfolk. A 35% increase in apprenticeships has been reported between August 2021 and January 2022,

with 3026 new apprenticeships started in the last 6 months.

Apprenticeships are a government-funded scheme which gives individuals of any age the opportunity to build a new future whilst earning and learning and enables businesses

to harness new skills and improve their productivity and sustainability at the same time.

Local employers, training providers, and Norfolk County Council’s dedicated team of experts at Apprenticeships Norfolk, boosted by incentives and grants, are all working

together to make apprenticeships easier to access and to understand for individuals.

**Norfolk Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans**

Norfolk County Council has secured a revenue grant from central government to support the development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Norfolk.

The LCWIP for Norfolk plays an important part in delivering the Government’s strategy for encouraging everyone to cycle and walk more, especially when making short journeys

in towns and cities. Increased levels of active travel, especially for shorter journeys in towns, will help to reduce congestion, improve air quality, and benefit the environment and local economy.

The County Council is working in partnership with all district and borough councils to create the plan. The Norfolk LCWIP builds on plans already completed for Great Yarmouth,

King’s Lynn and Greater Norwich.

The objective of the plan is to develop a countywide walking and cycling network, and identify infrastructure improvements over the short, medium and long term.

The development of the Norfolk LCWIP also supports the delivery of a low carbon, well-connected transport network in Norfolk.

The plan for Norfolk is in the early stages of development and to support with the development of the plan the County Council has created an online survey to help obtain

insights into current levels of cycling and walking within Norfolk and to identify places where people feel they want to be better connected on foot or cycle.

The initial Norfolk LCWIP engagement runs from the 5 April to 30 May.

to review and comment on detailed proposals within the Norfolk Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan in Autumn 2022 go to www.Norfolk.gov.uk

**The initial Norfolk Cycling and Walking Survey is open from 5 April to 30 May.**

District Councillors Report May 2022

UKRAINE - NNDC has employed a Ukrainian Support Officer to extend a warm welcome to Ukrainians settling in North Norfolk: at the time of writing there are 39. Drop-in sessions for refugees and hosts will be held twice weekly at NNDC.

COASTAL - the recent award of government funding (part of a £36 million investment) will allow communities and businesses at erosion risk in North Norfolk to work with NNDC to explore innovative approaches of adapting to coastal erosion. First steps are to work up the initial business case to get the first funding.

HOUSING - there are 2560 households on the housing waiting list, which is still much too high but in fact the lowest number for five years.  160 affordable homes were built last year. The number of households threatened with homelessness is up 14% from last year which is appalling, but NNDC does have 16 homes for temporary accommodation. The Integrated housing adaptations team have received a record number of enquiries, up to 431 in 21-22. NNDC is now working with Flagship to undertake adaptations to their properties which should reduce waiting times for much needed house modifications for residents.

BENEFITS - the second round of the Household Support Fund started from 1st April.  NNDC is working with NCC to launch the scheme as soon as possible. The £150 energy rebate scheme will be rolled out in May. If residents are paying council tax by direct debit the rebate will happen automatically; if not, they will receive a letter from NNDC to make a claim.

WELL-BEING/CULTURE- social prescribing referrals have increased to 934 in 212-22 from 603 the previous year.

The Mammoth Marathon will be held Sunday May 15th, running from Sea Palling to Sheringham, the half marathon from Mundesley.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT- NNDC has delivered support to businesses through the ‘Go digital ‘program (50 businesses helped with digitalisation); the Visit North Norfolk Membership program (172 tourism businesses helped with marketing and data); and the North Norfolk Care Academy (which has so far created 6 jobs in the care sector).

ENVIRONMENT - NNDC will undertake a caravan site inspection, focussing on coastal sites and those with potential safety issues.

The Love Holt Market will run till December on the first Sunday of the month.

Volunteer litter pickers delivered a successful ‘fishing for litter’ project, placing dedicated bins at fishing locations to collect marine fishing waste, which was then recycled. This will lead to permanent siting of such bins.

10 galvanised steel BBQ bins have been installed at Blue Flag beaches for BBQ waste.

PARKING - the public consultation on the NNDC Car Park Consolidation Order (i.e., car park charges) runs from 17/4-20/5/2022 and can be found on the NNDC home page. The most relevant pages of the consultation document are 10-12.

PLANNING - GIRAMS (Green Infrastructure Recreational Mitigation Strategy) measures are being implemented as of 1st April. This is mitigation to address the adverse effects on Habitat Sites from increased footfall and comprises a one-off payment from development, e.g., new house building, which will go towards protecting these special landscapes.

Nutrient neutrality - the guidance from Natural England regarding nutrient enrichment affecting the ecosystems of the River Wensum and Broads by development and agriculture has created a hiatus in decision making for new homes applications in the catchment areas (for North Norfolk, the district south of Fakenham and Holt). New development will require mitigation such as improving wastewater treatment works, offsetting nutrient loads from development by removing run off from agricultural land, and creating new wetlands. Mitigation proposals will be at catchment level and therefore across local authorities. The Government has offered £100k per catchment for additional officer time.

This guidance will cause significant delay in the progress of the New Local Plan.

Local plan - the consultation yielded about 1000 representations. Overall, the plan was warmly received. The policies on biodiversity, the environment and connectivity were welcomed. Objections were raised including to the adequacy of infrastructure capacity and the need for increased provision to be in place before development occurs. There were questions as to whether enough emphasis was placed on the control of second homes.

NNDC can make modifications to the Local Plan at this stage as a result of the consultation, but they have to be evidenced.