

### Prudent Balanced Budget

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At the Full Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016, the District Council set its budget for 2016/17. This is a balanced budget that maintains all of our services and also prudently retains an adequate level of reserves. For the fifth year in a row, NNDC's share of Council Tax will **not** increase.

It is sound financial management for the District Council to maintain adequate reserves as this enables the District Council to more easily take action to help individuals and communities following events such as the 2013 tidal surge and the 2014 Fakenham fire.

### Saving Lives – 10th Anniversary

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The RNLI, the charity that saves lives at sea, first teamed up with North Norfolk District Council in 2007 to provide beach patrols at Cromer, Sheringham, Mundesley and Sea Palling. A decade later, the service has expanded along the East Anglia coast to 16 beaches, including at West Runton, East Runton and Wells in North Norfolk, as well as beaches in the Great Yarmouth area and Suffolk.

Having lifeguards on duty when North Norfolk is at its busiest means visitors and residents can have peace of mind while enjoying our beautiful coastline. For example, In 2015, lifeguards rescued 10 people in three hours from Wells beach after bathers got caught out by strong currents. More details at <http://bit.ly/cllr-vfitzpatrick-wells-rescue>

### NNDC Enforcement

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A company and its director were fined £25,000 by Kings Lynn Magistrates' Court for felling two trees on a development site in Fakenham that were protected by a Tree Preservation Order. The felling of the trees took place after North Norfolk District Council advised that permission to cut the trees down for better construction access to his building site would not be granted.

Norwich Magistrates' Court fined a mother and son £1,000 for operating a riding establishment without a licence and also disqualified them from keeping a riding school for five years. The court heard that North Norfolk District Council had refused a licence due to serious concerns identified by the Veterinary Inspector relating to the health and welfare of the horses. Despite having no licence the pair continued to advertise riding lessons. There were eye-witness accounts of riding lessons continuing at the establishment, and a covert surveillance operation organised by NNDC and carried out by an officer from another local authority, resulted in them being given a riding lesson.

The magistrates noted a considerable amount of work had gone into establishing the facts and evidence of the case and that the pair knew they needed a licence. They accepted

money for riding school services, described by the defendants as donations, but the magistrates saw it as receipt of money

We are keen that long term empty properties are brought back into use rather than lying empty. At the Full Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016, a budget for the compulsory purchase of long term empty properties was agreed. It should be noted that compulsory purchase will only be used in the last resort as we would prefer to find mutually acceptable solutions with the property owners.

## Whitsun 2016

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A brochure giving details of sports & country events and activities during the Whitsun break is available on the NNDC website at <http://bit.ly/NNDC-Whitsun>

## North Norfolk Big Society Fund

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The fund makes capital grants of up to £15,000 to voluntary and community organisations within North Norfolk. Applicants do not need to ask for the full £15,000 – applications for smaller amounts are equally welcome. If you know of any organisation that may benefit, then please get them to apply.

Full details are given in the Fund's page on the District Council website:

<http://bit.ly/cllr-vfitzpatrick-BSF>. Help and advice is available from the officers (telephone: 01263 516173; email: [supporting.communities@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:supporting.communities@north-norfolk.gov.uk)).

Applications for the June sitting of the Big Society Fund Grant Panel have now closed. I will advise you of application closing date for the next panel sitting.

Councillor Vincent FitzPatrick  
Priory Ward

<https://www.northnorfolk.org/>