

NNDC Report for Warham Parish Council – 19 November 2020

Here follows a short report from NNDC.

The council has distributed grants totalling approximately £57m to businesses in the form of Business rate relief, Discretionary Grants and has just received expressions of interests for the Tourism Grant Scheme to enable businesses to make it through to Spring 2021. Our officers have consistently outperformed other councils and have worked tirelessly since March this year. They have been truly outstanding.

The tree planting season is upon us if you have any need for trees in Warham for individuals or schemes please go to the NNDC website and apply. The intention is to plant a tree for every resident. Electric Vehicle charge points have been installed in Council carparks across the district.

Further news will come out this week as to how the new lock down will affect us so please keep your eyes open for this.

We have opened a Tourism Support Grant scheme and have had a very good response from Businesses. Successful applicants will be informed and paid in the next two weeks. There is a further Business Support Grant for the lockdown which is being finalised as I write and another Discretionary scheme to cover 18 months from January which will start at the end of the year. Yet again I have to thank the excellent work of officers in getting these schemes up and running.

NNDC are upgrading the Planning software to a newer, more comprehensive system. The old system will remain online for reference but from 13th November no new applications will be posted. The new system is intended to be up and running from 7th December. Officers will be working 7 days a week in the interim to export, check and verify the data for the new system. As you can imagine there is an enormous amount of Data to move. In the meantime, please let me know if you need information on applications and I will get in touch with Planning directly.

NNDC have responded to the White Paper on Planning after submissions from Town and Parish Councils. It will be interesting to see the outcome.

I don't know if the White Paper on Devolution will be forthcoming this month. There has already been fierce debate and I feel it may be delayed until the new year.

The government's decision to revert to yearly budgeting is not helping Councils budget for the long term and is complicating the initial stages of Budget preparation for next Financial year.

Kind regards,

Richard