

This is my first monthly report to the villages of Priory Ward as your newly elected District Councillor.

As you will no doubt be aware there are many of you, so I may not always be able to make all your Parish Council meetings. However, if you have a specific item on the agenda, you would like me there to discuss please let me know and I will do my best to join you. Likewise, should an item arise during the meeting that you would like me to investigate or assist with please do not hesitate to contact me.

Following the elections in May there were a significant number of new Councilors who have been undergoing an intensive training program to bring everyone up to speed and to meet legislative training requirements (Planning and Licensing) are two such examples.

Planning and housing is often the subject of much debate and I am always happy to hear your views and considerations on applications. You know your villages better than anyone and your thoughts are important to me when representing you.

As there was no change in administration the day to day running of the Council has continued unchanged, and work in progress that was suspended during the election period has restarted.

At Full Council last month it was agreed

:- To purchase two new refuse vehicles for the District as additional capacity is required following the extension of services, and a result of greater take-up of existing services.

Council also agreed to change the name of the Parish of Witton to Witton and Ridlington to bring it inline with its generally accepted title.

A motion was debated about banning the usage of flying discs with holes in them on our beaches due to the impact they can have on our seals if discarded. The motion was passed.

At Cabinet this month papers were brought forward regarding:-

The Council's new Corporate Plan – this is the paper that sets out what the Council will be seeking to achieve and deliver over the next four years. This will now go to Full Council for approval.

The Outturn Report – The report provides a final budget monitoring position for the 2022/23 financial year. The report makes recommendations that provide funding for ongoing commitments and future projects.

The Treasury Management Report - This report sets out the Treasury Management activities undertaken during 2022/23 compared with the Treasury Management Strategy for the year.

A report to purchase new housing stock - This report recommends purchase of a 4-bed home partly funded from government Local Authority Housing Fund grant. Initially the home will be used to help meet the resettlement needs of Afghan households but in the longer term the Council will be able to use the home as temporary accommodation for homeless households. This is part of central Governments drive to cease the use of temporary accommodation.

A report to work with one of our partners on providing new housing for local residents. The delivery of new affordable housing is a key priority for the Council. This is an opportunity to support the delivery of two affordable homes and support the work of a partner community-led housing organisation. The support takes the form of a loan of £110,000 at commercial rates and at minimal risk to the Council.

The Councils Disabled Facilities Grant was reviewed. The current mandatory Discretionary Facilities Grant (DFG) service delivered by the Integrated Housing Adaptations Team (IHAT) is valued, effective and efficient. Demand for mandatory DFGs is increasing due to an increasing older population and the desire by many people with disabilities and long term health conditions to remain in their own home rather than in residential or nursing care. A Discretionary DFG Policy is needed to widen the scope and services available through the DFG process. It will offer an early intervention service and contribute to the resolution of cases that require works outside the scope of the current DFG fund. A Discretionary DFG Policy will reduce the formal process and enable adaptations to be progressed more quickly for those with life limiting conditions. Overall the Discretionary DFG Policy will widen the DFG offer, improve customer service, reduce DFG process wait times and support the promotion of independent living. If your residents need help to access this service please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Cabinet decided to approve funding to support the work of the Information Advice and Advocacy Service known to many as the CAB but now the service is provided to North Norfolk by the (Norfolk CA).

Do remember you can watch any of these meetings via live stream should you wish to do so.

Finally – The Battle of the Beaches has just returned on social media don't forget to vote for your favourite.

Should you be walking in Cromer over the next few weeks please be aware the Marrams Footpath is closed for repair.

Until next time – don't forget to reach out if I can help and speak to you again in August.

Sarah

Late News - The government is inviting community organisations to bid for funding for an automated external defibrillator (AED) for their area, please find the link below for more details.

The second link is an expression of interest form.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bids-invited-for-1-million-defibrillator-fund>

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=MIwnYaiRMUyMH-9N6Jc6HLfy1IJ\\_IPFFotCZIB4mEYIUQ1VUWU9ISjI4MjNTVzIPWFk1SDQ2SzhRSi4u](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=MIwnYaiRMUyMH-9N6Jc6HLfy1IJ_IPFFotCZIB4mEYIUQ1VUWU9ISjI4MjNTVzIPWFk1SDQ2SzhRSi4u)