

Please find below my second report to the Parishes of the Priory Ward which covers August an extremely quiet month, and the first few days of September.

At Full Council last month, it was agreed:-

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.

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).

At Cabinet this month papers were brought forward regarding:-

The Local Plan, it is moving forwards and delegated authority was given to the Planning Policy Manager in consultation with the Planning Portfolio Holder and Chairman of the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party to respond to the Inspectors questions prior to and during the Examination hearings.

That having been subject to successful local referendum.

The Holt Neighbourhood Plan be made (brought into force) as part of the statutory Development Plan for North Norfolk in accordance with section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) on the 25th August 2023;

That, as soon as reasonably practical, weight is given to the emerging Plan policies in line with para 48 of the NPPF.

The Budget Monitoring report was shared and shows that the overall position at the end of July 2023 shows a £3,905,574 underspend for the current financial year on the revenue account, this is however currently expected to deliver a full year overspend of £25,000.

- A couple of further points from within the report that may be of interest, funding has been requested and approved for repairs to the Marrams footpath in Cromer and the Public Conveniences in Holt.

The Cromer Phase 2 and Mundesley Coastal Development Scheme.

The detailed design for the Schemes is now completed, the consenting process and further funding is progressing. We are in the process of reviewing the Construction Phase Proposal.

A report on the North Norfolk Sustainable Communities Fund was considered, and further work for continuing this work into the future is being prepared.

The Cedars in North Walsham is ready to reopen and is holding an open day for members of the public on Thursday the 7th.

Rocket House Cromer

The Rocket House building is a multi-let property with community facilities on Cromer East Promenade that now requires substantial repairs, maintenance and energy improvement works to ensure a sustainable future for the building. Officers have considered a range of options seeking to provide best value to the Council and to continue providing accommodation to the existing tenants, along with retention of the public toilets and lift.

As you will no doubt be aware there are many Parish Councils in Priory, 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.

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.