

NNDC Report October 2023 – from Sarah Butikofer

Please find below my October report to the Parishes of the Priory Ward.

As Chairman of the Council I had the sad honor of paying tribute to two outstanding former District Councillors at the NNDC Full Council meeting of the 20th September 2023. Councillor Peter Terrington former Councillor for Priory ward, and Councillor John Lee – Former Leader and Chairman of the District Council.

I have announced my Charity for my year in office is the 'Sir Norman Lamb's Coalition of Young People'

The pressures our young people now face from a very early age are well documented. However, this area isn't nearly as well-resourced as it needs to be; we must provide the care and support needed to catch our young people and help them before clinical intervention is required. How many of us have faced periods in our life when its all felt 'too much?' imagine facing that as a child or teenager.

The situation has become even more exacerbated since Covid – with 1 in 4 teenagers having a mental health difficulty, an increase from 1 in 6 in 2021. Early intervention is key to prevent deterioration in a young person's mental wellbeing – with the voluntary and community sector perfectly placed to address these challenges.

By working with these organisations and providing them with shared resources and finance they are able to reach larger numbers of our young people in need.

Please help me to support this work and donate to my Charity this year. I will be having a Quiz and Curry Night in the New Year, and fingers crossed a Christmas Carol Service with representatives of the Charity over the first weekend of December details to follow.

Thank you.

Are you aware of the Council's – Invest North Norfolk initiative – if you run a business in North Norfolk its well worth a look, and contains lots of useful information and details on some grant schemes.

I know how important the Blakeney Surgery is to many of you and thought you would be interested to know that at last month's Full Council meeting a Motion to :

1. **Recognise the critical importance of Blakeney Surgery to the community.**
2. **Call on the Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care Board to provide local and equitable health care for those living in Blakeney and surrounding villages.**

Was passed unanimously by all those attending.

A paper discussing Council Tax Discounts and the Premiums Determination process for 24-25 will be debated at Council in November – this is the start of a long process of several papers that will be debated by Council over several months prior to the Full Meeting in February next year, when the Council Budget and Council Tax charges from the year are debated and decided.

There will also be a paper brought forward on the future of the 22 Emergency Phones along the North Norfolk Coast which we currently provide. They have received very little use in recent years with the advances in mobile phone technology and with forthcoming changes in infrastructure by BT their continuation needs to be properly considered.

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.