**District Council Report – January 2023**

**Voter ID:**

• A passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country

• A driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state

• A biometric immigration document

• An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)

• Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)

• A Blue Badge

• A national identity card issued by an EEA state

• An Older Person’s Bus Pass

• A Disabled Person’s Bus Pass

• An Oyster 60+ Card

• A Freedom Pass

• A Scottish National Entitlement Card issued in Scotland

• A 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales

• A Disabled Person’s Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales

• Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland

• A Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person’s SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland

• A War Disablement SmartPass or War Disabled SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland

• A 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland

• A Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland

• An Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland

• A Voter Authority Certificate or a temporary Voter Authority Certificate

****Anyone who doesn’t have one of the above forms of identification will have to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate applications open on the 16th January.

The certificates will last for 10 years.

For individuals who don’t use/have access to the internet they can come into our office and we will complete the form with them, there is also a paper form available which can be posted to individuals, and we are also working with Libraries to offer support and assistance.

This does not affect postal votes.

Text, letter

Description automatically generated**Changes to Planning:**

There is currently a Government Consultation on National Planning Policy Changes running this opened on the 22nd December and runs until the

2nd March.

We are hoping that these proposed changes will go into the new NPPF which is planned to be published in Spring 2023. I have attached a link in my report which takes you to the details of the proposed changes

[National Planning Policy Framework: draft text for consultation (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1126647/NPPF_July_2021_-_showing_proposed_changes.pdf)

I think this finally shows some more common sense over planning and gives more control to the LPA rather than Developers.

* Five-year land supply would be abolished
* Applicants who persistently breach planning controls or failing to deliver their legal commitments to the community – this would be considered on any new applications
* **Government data will be published on developers of sites over a certain size who fail to build out according to their commitments – to discourage land banking**
* **Neighbourhood Plans will be recognised even more**

**Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan:**

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The period during which representations can be made will last until 5.00pm on Monday 6th March and, during that time, anyone that wishes to make representations on the legal compliance and/or soundness of the document. Please note that the Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan deals with the growth of villages within South Norfolk, rather than growth within the Norwich fringe, market towns and larger settlements. Obviously Poringland are not included in this so this is just for your information.

**Gypsy & Traveller sites:**

Cabinet approved to undertake a focused public consultation on the

A picture containing grass, tree, outdoor, sky

Description automatically generatedallocation of Gypsy and Traveller sites in the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP).

The consultation includes 10 favoured sites, a reasonable alternative site and 3 unreasonable sites.

It also provides the opportunity for people to put forward additional sites for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation.

The consultation is scheduled to take place from 30th January to 13th March 2023 with the opportunity for Cabinets to agree the final sites in early June prior to final site information and representations being sent to the inspectors later in June.

The GNLP examination hearings sessions on Gypsies and Travellers sites are expected to take place in late July.

It is anticipated that the inspectors will subsequently include Gypsy and Traveller sites in their main modifications to the GNLP.

The main modifications are expected to be consulted on in early Autumn 2023 allowing the inspectors to produce their report on the plan before the end of 2023 and adoption to take place early in 2024

**Nutrient Neutrality:**

As you’re all aware on the 16 March 2022 Natural England wrote toMap

Description automatically generated SNC to advise that with immediate affect we could not let any additional nutrients run into two special areas, the River Wensum and the Broads, this led to a large number of planning applications being put on hold. Whilst some of the volume housebuilders will be able to provide the mitigation required (through for example constructed wetlands) this will not be possible for many of the small and medium sized developers. With small and medium sized developers making up around 40% of the homes delivered in Norfolk this creates a significant barrier.

The impact of the nutrient neutrality requirements has been significant for Breckland Council, Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council, North Norfolk District Council and South Norfolk Council and therefore it is proposed that the authorities work together to identify a solution.

Anglian Water is also affected by nutrient neutrality and the government has indicated that the performance of wastewater treatment plants also must improve by 2030.

Without swift action to mitigate nutrient neutrality there is a risk that developers will submit predatory applications for schemes which lie outside the relevant catchment area and the plan-led approach to the growth agenda will be eroded.

The Norfolk planning authorities have been working together since March 2022 to look at the mitigation requirement and potential solutions.

The proposed way forward is to establish a Joint Venture company. The purpose of the Joint Venture would be to enable developers to purchase environmental credits to cover the additional enrichment load that has been calculated for their site.

The Joint Venture company would secure mitigation and then issue certificates confirming that credits had been purchased. Developers would then submit the certificates with their planning applications.

At this stage it is envisaged that Breckland Council, Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council, North Norfolk Council, South Norfolk Council and Anglian Water will enter the Joint Venture.

The aim is to have the governance up and running by March 2023, alongside developing some short-term mitigation solutions.

The proposed Joint Venture with Anglian Water and the other local authorities that have been significantly affected by nutrient neutrality will enable the hold on many planning applications to be released in the short term.

This is an innovative scheme and the first in the Country but managing to get Anglian Water involved is really important.

So, fingers crossed we will see getting back to “normal” regarding planning in the very near future.

Logo

Description automatically generated with low confidence**Parish/Town Council Forum:**

Our next Parish/Town Council Forum is next Wednesday at 10am online.

I have forwarded the invite to Charlotte in case she hadn’t seen it.

A police officer talking to a person

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I have mentioned previously about the Safer Neighbourhood Team of the Police that covers this area and the quarterly virtual meeting that PC Andy Sneddon holds to set the next quarters priorities to work on.

Unfortunately, at the last meeting Vic Thomson was the only attendee,

PC Andy Sneddon has stated that if he doesn’t get anymore attendees he will stop holding these meetings. I believe this would be a real shame as it’s an opportunity to hear and discuss any issues in the area.

**Warm spaces grant:**

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I’m pleased that The White Horse pub has been successful in receiving a grant for providing a warm space and is now shown on our website as a venue that people can attend to get warm and have a cup of coffee and a conversation.

I haven’t heard anything regarding the Parking Scheme, so fingers crossed it will be going out to advert later this month.