



Latest update on events from your District Councillor Tom FitzPatrick

Barsham Parish Council

20th March 2023

Bin Collections – Industrial Action

A number of staff employed by Serco, the council's waste contractor went on strike last week (w/c 13th March) causing delays in collecting bins in a number of areas across the district meaning some bins were not collected on their scheduled day. Measures were taken to ensure all bins were collected at some point last week even if the usual day was missed. This means that we started this week (w/c 20th March) with no outstanding work and the scheduled collections will be undertaken as normal. This is a good position to be in given the number of staff who took part in the industrial action.

It is expected that the current week should be a normal week, with those participating in industrial action returning to work and no notification as yet of any further action. Details of any further disruption will appear on the council website should this happen.

VOTER ID

District and Parish Elections across the whole of North Norfolk will take place on Thursday 4th May. At these elections voters will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in these and all subsequent UK elections. This is national Government policy and will apply to the NNDC elections and parish elections on 4th May 2023.

- **Voters or their proxies will not be issued with a ballot paper unless they present acceptable ID at the polling station.**

Those without suitable form of ID can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate – you can apply online, by post or in person.

For further details of these changes (including application for a Voter Authority Certificate) please visit – <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/electoral-services/elections-act-2022/>

The procedure for postal voting remains unchanged and details are also available on the NNDC website.

LEVELLING UP BIDS

NNDC submitted two bids to the second round of the £2.1 billion Levelling-up fund from central government.

The Fakenham Leisure and Sports hub bid was aimed at expanding the offering at the existing Fakenham Sports Centre to include a swimming pool and artificial grass pitch alongside improvements to the existing facilities.

The Cromer an investment programme in the public open space and related infrastructure of Cromer's clifftop gardens and wild spaces.

Unfortunately, both of these bids have been unsuccessful and feedback has been sought about the reasons for the decision.

Local Plan for North Norfolk

A Special Meeting of the District Council was held at the beginning of this month (1st March) and Council agreed to submit the North Norfolk Local Plan for independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate. This is a requirement for the Council, in its role as the Local Planning Authority, which then has to incorporate any recommendations from the Inspectorate, prior to being in the position to enable its adoption for the District.

The purpose of this is to ensure that the District has an up to date and sound Local Plan in place against which to make decisions on planning and related applications for development. This is tied in with other considerations such as the 5 Year Land Supply and allows the Council as the Local Planning Authority to ensure that policies are consistent and resist speculative developments.

Coronation of His Majesty the King

I have attached a copy of the March edition of the newsletter of the Norfolk Lieutenancy to this update as it contains details of both national and Norfolk events and initiatives, as it contains useful information for anyone planning local events.

Tom FitzPatrick

District Councillor for Walsingham Ward

(The Barshams, Great Snoring, Little Snoring, Sculthorpe & Walsingham)

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