District Council Update 6th March 2023

Dear Councillors please find attached the latest news from the District Council.

**Council Tax**

Full Council met on the 22nd of January to agree the budget for the forthcoming financial year. Following a public consultation and given the current financial pressures facing residents there was much debate about increasing Council Tax at this time. No-one wanted to increase the tax but Councillors agreed that not to do so was not financially viable given the constant squeezing of funding from central government, and the fact that the Council wish to maintain and improve all the services currently offered to residents.

Therefore, Council tax will rise by an average of £4.95 for a band D property.

In case residents are not aware only 8p from every £ the Council is responsible for collecting is kept by the District – the rest goes to the County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner and on Parish Precepts.

**Waste and Re-cycling**

The new waste collection system is now bedding in and if anyone does experience a missed delivery that is not rectified within 24hrs, I would be grateful if they could let me know so I can follow up on it for them.

Additionally, residents can now put any used batteries they may have out for collection in a clear bag on top of their bin on collection day.

We are also introducing a ‘Small Electrical Appliance’ collection scheme across the District and further details will circulate in your area as this comes online in the coming weeks. Please do not leave these appliances out for collection until you are notified.

**Project Update**

The Council has recently completed the refurbishment of the Bar and Guest facilities on the Pier in Cromer ready for the start of the 2023 season, and has worked with partners to update the Little Theatre Café area in Sheringham.

The Councils Tree Project has been successfully delivered on schedule and in District, and has resulted in 110,000 new trees being planted one for every North Norfolk resident.

The North Walsham Heritage Action zone project is nearing completion and initial results are very promising with new businesses entering the town and positive comments from visitors and residents.

As you would expect coastal erosion continues to be a big issue for North Norfolk and some of you may have seen it feature on Countryfile on the 5th of March. Cromer and Mundesley have been awarded money from Central Government for improvements to their sea defences and work will commence later in the year.

Finally – this will probably be one of my last reports to you as your District Councillor.

I am sorry I will not be able to stand to represent you again, and that you have not as seen me as much as I would have liked in the last 18months. Sadly, my health means I have to step down. It has been an honour and a pleasure to be your Councillor for the last 4 years.

However, I am delighted the Liberal Democrats have selected the fantastically dedicated and energetic Callum Ringer from Bodham to contest the seat for them in May.

Callum has achieved so much for his community in Bodham as its Parishes Vice Chairman and I am sure will do all he can to represent the other villages within the ward if successful.

Many thanks for your messages of support during my illness and wishing you all the very best for the future.

Pierre Butikofer