Councillors Report – September 2023 – Cllr Callum Ringer, NNDC.

August has been a fairly quiet month with few council meetings over the summer holidays. NNDC as usual sees an influx of visitors which in turn puts pressure on council services, particularly in our coastal towns and villages. I am pleased to report that the summer holidays passed without major incident and our teams and contractors dealt with the additional demand.

**Gresham Issues:**

I have been contacted by residents on a number of issues in Gresham over the past couple of months, summarised below:

* Resident complaints about phone signal. I have contacted the company responsible for the Bessingham Rd Sewage works mast as this does not appear to be bringing promised coverage benefits. A result of this is residents are being unable to install energy saving technology and a vulnerable resident is being forced to seek alternative accommodation as their pendant alarm is not working. More on this as I get it.
* The footpaths to the school have not had sufficient maintenance. Despite continued efforts, the area to the east of Hellgate Lane into Lower Gresham has still yet to be maintained. I wonder whether an increase in cutting for the paths to the school may be required (perhaps 3 times a year?) I would be interest to know the parish council views.
* I have had contact regarding Gresham FP2. The resident suffered an injury for which they took some time to recover. The path is scheduled to have some works carried out in September and I will be going to check in due course.

The latter two points are of course county council responsibilities rather than NNDC but I don’t mind chasing if necessary.

**Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored Cycle Ride:**

This took place on Saturday in sweltering heat, hard to believe that now as it pours with rain. Despite having only just overcome Covid (again) managed to cycle to 53 churches covering nearly 70 miles. Needless to say, I still ache. There is still time to sponsor if you wish - <https://www.justgiving.com/page/callum-ringer-1688369441473?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fcallum-ringer-1688369441473&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share>

**The Reef Solar Array**

The Solar Array has now been completed and generating clean energy into the grid and the leisure centre. This project will help build resilience into the centre. Nationally leisure centres have been particularly vulnerable to energy price increases and so this should help safeguard.

**West Beckham Affordable Housing**

Two Planning applications, each for 5 affordable homes have been lodged with NNDC by Broadland Housing Association. Unlike conventional affordable housing developments, these sites, known as ‘exception’ sites are permitted where development usually would not be where it can be demonstrated that it meets a local need. Thus, to be eligible for these homes you must be on the housing list with a DIRECT LOCAL CONNECTION to West Beckham or a surrounding parish, of which Gresham is one. The first site will be determined by NNDC planning committee later this week, and the second site will be determined in the coming months.

As always, please do contact me if I can be of any assistance callum.ringer@north-norfolk.gov.uk 07824381519