**Cllr Callum Ringer – Gresham Ward**

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*Serving the parishes of Aylmerton ; Baconsthorpe ; Bodham ; East Beckham ; Gresham ; Hempstead ; Little Barningham ; Matlaske ; Plumstead ; West Beckham*

**January 2024**

First of all, I’d like to start by wishing you all a happy new year, and I look forward to working with you all throughout 2024.

**Affordable Housing**

Before Christmas all parish council’s should have received a copy of a leaflet explaining the numbers of those households with strong connections to each parish who are currently on the housing waiting list. I hope that this information will provoke conversations at parish councils about whether there is potential for new small affordable housing schemes in our villages. These would be exception housing schemes which would meet LOCAL housing need, rather than the general housing list. The district council’s affordable housing enabler Anna Clarke can speak to councils, landowners etc to discuss. Two recently approved schemes in West Beckham (5 homes each) are due to begin soon and are being built to an exceptional environmental standard. For the Gresham ward this shows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Parish  | Number of households on housing waiting list who class as having a close connection with that parish | Affordable homes let in that parish past 12 months |
| Aylmerton | 60 | 0 |
| Baconsthorpe  | 28 | 0 |
| Beckham (E & W) | 38 | 0 |
| Bodham | 57 | 4 |
| Gresham | 26 | 1 |
| Hempstead | 32 | 0 |
| Little Barningham | 29 | 0 |
| Matlaske | 55 | 0 |
| Plumstead | 21 | 0 |
| **NNDC Total** | **2495** | **234** |

**Christmas Trees**

Residents with garden waste subscriptions are able to leave their Christmas trees alongside their brown bin for nndc collection until 20th January. Alternatively they can be taken to the tip, and some animal sanctuaries are taking them too.

**Statutory biodiversity duties for public bodies.**

I know some councils have already embarked on this process of considering biodiversity, and others have wanted more information. This link provides a summary of what the duties for public bodies are: <https://gowlingwlg.com/en/insights-resources/articles/2023/statutory-biodiversity-duties-for-public-bodies/>

Attached I have a template biodiversity which has been shared with me and may be useful for parish councils developing their plans.

Late last year I did share a link to the Norfolk County Council ‘Trees for connectivity’ programme which is funding tree planting in certain areas. <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/What-we-do-and-how-we-work/Campaigns/1-Million-Trees-for-Norfolk/Get-involved/Grant-funding-in-North-Norfolk-and-Breckland-areas>

There is also tree packs available to public bodies from The Woodland Trust. Applications open shortly for November 2024 <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

NNDC can also provide litter pickers, sacks, hoops and collection of waste for communities wishing to hold a litter pick. Let me know and I can sort that out. The Great British Spring Clean (organised by Keep Britain Tidy) is taking place in March.

**Footpath Challenge**

As I have previously reported, I have been walking every mile of every footpath in the Gresham Ward over the past couple of months. There are over 100 in total. So far I have walked 31 of these, covering 41.3 miles (correct as of 7/1/22). I am reporting things as I go round.

**NNDC Planning Roadshow**

North Norfolk District Council are organising a series of sessions across the district that aim to provide an introduction to Town & Country Planning and how Town & Parish Councils can best respond to and get involved with the Town Planning system.

This initiative was launched at the Town and Parish Council Forum today with the first session being held on 20 November at The Maltings in Wells. The next event is in Holt

**Date: Thursday 1 February 2024**

**Venue: The Meeting Room, St. Andrews Church, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 6BB**

**Time: 6.30pm**

**The session should finish by 8.30 at the latest.**

**Any member of a town or parish council can attend. Please register interest via the link below.**

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=0S9nn4KYRUWRKz6BMQvmcnTU8AeLjHJMo3mI9XalHD1UQklHVzVOT1hZVExBUFI5MFU0U0lCQ041US4u>

I have a facebook page, where I post useful community information, just search Cllr Callum Ringer – Gresham Ward. I try and keep it updated with community events, relevant NNDC information (and county where appropriate). Do give it a ‘like’ if you are on social media.