

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL FORUM

Several areas of support for residents were discussed on 10 October.

NALC are working with the Council to advise on the elections next year on 4 May. Only 11 of the 121 parish/ town councils were contested in 2019. Electoral Services expect about 1000 nominations for both district and parish elections. Only 2 sponsors are needed on nomination forms which can be emailed to the Council for checking but must be submitted by hand to be valid. Following recent Government changes voting in person will involve producing evidence of identification (e.g. drivers' licence, passport or bus pass) but if you register to vote by post ID will not be necessary.

The new Planning Service Improvement Plan will be issued in January to improve communication, delivery, and performance of our planning service. Please see Stop Press below for more details.

NALC will be offering training to Parish/Town Councils sometimes for free and will be rolling out a programme to visit parishes.

The Youth Council has been introduced and the response has been encouraging and meetings at NNDC in the main chamber will be run by the British Youth Council.

Councillors attended a Domestic Abuse Forum which highlighted some gaps in the service. More co-ordination between Pandora and Leeway for people to access help directly is proposed.

Next meeting is on 9 January 2023.

COST OF LIVING SUMMIT

The Council invited interested parties, charities, foodbanks, and community connector officers who provided a well-attended hybrid event on 3 November. The main concern was the increases in the cost of heating. There are 4 Council support schemes:-

- Energy Rebate Discretionary Scheme:

NNDC send £150 to every house costing £131k across 3,121 properties which ends on 30 November.

- Household Support Fund:

Support for low-income families with food bills, debt, furnishings, and heating bills for 887 households costing £226k.

- Discretionary Hardship Support Grant:

Identifies families in need of housing, health, or social care support.

- Norfolk Warm Homes Grant Scheme:

Households with incomes under £30k and £15k in savings and energy rated E,F or G are eligible for help with insulation costs and installing air source heat pumps.

The Council have compiled a website of Warm Space venues offering places where people can meet - see warmspaces.org. Details are available from the NNDC Help Hub and the Community Connector team.

In summary, our rural communities have problems accessing help and combating the stigma of appealing for help should be community not charity driven. Community radio is useful as a medium. Preparing the district for power outages this winter is a priority for the Council resilience team.

- The Planning Service Improvement consultation was launched on 1 November for residents to let the Council know what they think of the service they received on any planning application submitted within the last 18 months. Please submit your opinion using the online questionnaire to north-norfolk.gov.uk/planningfeedback. Please note this will end on 30 November. Further details can be found using <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/consultations/> in your browser.
- The Glaven Valley Conservation Area appraisal starts on 21 November and ends 20 January; RSVP to consultation@north-norfolk.gov.uk. The dates and venues for the drop-in exhibition will be announced very shortly. Your feedback will be very welcome particularly on the proposal to extend the boundary around Sharrington. For further details enter <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/conservation/glaven-valley-conservation-areas-review/> in your browser.