

## COUNCIL TAX RATES FOR 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Lib Dem controlled District Council (NNDC) has announced a Council Tax increase of 2.9% compared to the Conservative County Council increase by 4.99%, the maximum permitted without requiring a public referendum. This means there will be no cuts to frontline services at NNDC and the finances will balance to satisfy the legal requirement without any recourse to borrowing. The Lib Dem budget gained majority support from the Conservatives who interestingly didn't even submit an alternative version for some reason.

## MAY ELECTION CHANGES - IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON VOTER IDENTIFICATION

Polling station staff will be allowed to accept outdated proof of ID at the door on polling day - Thursday 4 May - provided the photograph is a representative image. Please note that registering for a postal vote with NNDC Electoral Services avoids the need for proof of identification. You can still take your postal voting papers to the polling station on 4 May if you miss the return date but remember your proof of identification ie photo ID if you do.

Postal votes can be obtained by emailing [postalvotes@north-norfolk.co.uk](mailto:postalvotes@north-norfolk.co.uk) or call **01263 513811**. Closing date is 5pm on Tuesday 18 April. Alternatively, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate to enable you to vote in person if you have no photo identification. Notices will be displayed in village noticeboards with information in advance of the elections.

Please remember to take Photo ID when you go out to vote.

## THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR NORTH NORFOLK

As the portfolio holder for Planning and Enforcement, I am pleased to announce that the Council's new Local Plan has been approved by full Council and will now be referred to the Government Planning Inspector for approval. The Council's Planning Policy Team have been working continuously for the last 5 years on the new planning blueprint for our District. The Plan which will (inter alia) identify sites for new development and new policies to control the type of development residents want to see until 2036.

## GLAVEN VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

Public meetings were held at The Venue in Holt and Blakeney Village Hall on 9 March. Responses by email to [caconsultation@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:caconsultation@north-norfolk.gov.uk). and by post to Conservation, Design and Landscape North Norfolk District Council Holt Rd Cromer NR27 9EN or using the online feedback form on the NNDC website. The extended consultation will close on Friday 31 March.

## NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY LATEST

The Council are moving towards releasing some sites for new development because a new not-for-profit company will be formed with several neighbouring District Councils and Anglian Water to invest and treat effluent more effectively. Larger developments will have drainage systems in situ, but many small sites we are anxious to promote will need to pay for offsite measures so that the new company can invest in land which will enhance nature and biodiversity to compensate for harm to our natural habitats, watercourses, chalk-streams and rivers. The planning system will not fully recover until late summer this year because of the complexity of acquiring agricultural land to improve biodiversity which developers can finance as part of their planning applications.

## OFFSHORE WINDFARM COMMUNITY FUND

I have asked the Hornsea Three in conjunction with their agents Grantscape to contact me to discuss how the fund can potentially benefit the village and how they intend to engage with us. It would be useful if funding could provide solar panels on the village hall and possibly electric vehicle charging points for example to name but two benefits available under the scheme.

Cllr Andrew Brown