

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FOR EDGEFIELD PC – AUGUST 2024

AWARDS FOR OUR PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planning professionals have put NNDC sixth in the country for improvement in terms of speed of decisions and success with appeals to the Planning Inspectorate. This makes us the second-best district Council. As the cabinet member for Planning this is particularly relevant to me personally.

SECOND HOMES SURCHARGE

We continue to argue for a fairer share of the millions of pounds due to start next year from the national doubling of council tax. We have more of these properties than anywhere else in the county but this is being ignored by the County Council. We want at least 50%, they want us to keep only 8%. We have formed an alliance with other district councils to push back on this to fight for a better settlement here in North Norfolk.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS

LEPs were formed to work with Government to apply for support for things like new roads, employment or community events. The previous Government withdrew all funding in April but NNDC has voted to continue them until the proposed County Devolution Deal (see below) has been defined in operational terms.

COUNTY DEVOLUTION DEAL

The County Council were due to vote in favour of the new funding for Norfolk introducing in effect an unelected mayor to oversee it. This was postponed due to the general election and may change as a twinning arrangement with Suffolk is being considered.

POTHOLE PROBLEMS

Climbing the ladder of local concern is the state of our roads. National news has revealed that unless it's 30cm wide and 4 cms deep then it's not a pothole! Also if it's been reported and put on a work schedule then the right to be compensated for personal injury or vehicle repair is severely curtailed.

HORNSEA 3 ORSTED OPERATIONS

I am pleased to say that I have received confirmation that the Community Liaison Team have agreed to meet with those parishes affected by HGV traffic particularly Edgefield and Corpusty with Saxthorpe as well as Weybourne and Gresham. I welcome suggestions for a date, time and place together with a short agenda so Orsted can send a delegation to answer questions from an invited public audience perhaps.

NEW LOCAL PLAN

The response from the Inspector due in May was delayed until late July and we are being challenged on the number of houses planned for the 2014-2040 period. We offered 480 new dwellings per annum, the Government wanted 557 but since the election of the new Government this has been increased to 973. We are negotiating!

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES

I am pleased that our County Councilor has been elevated into parliament at his first attempt with a clear majority and I am sure everyone will wish him well for the future. Delighted to have played a part in a fair and successful campaign. I would like to offer my thanks to the retiring MP for representing the district during his term also.

Thank you for reading this report.

Cllr Andrew Brown

Member for Stody Ward