



Latest update on events from your District Councillor Tom FitzPatrick Sculthorpe Parish Council

1st March 2023

District Council Budget agreed by Councillors on 22nd February

Councillors voted 21 to 12 to increase North Norfolk District Council's share of Council Tax for 2023-24 by 3.1%.

- This reflects an annual increase of £4.95 or less for the District element of Council Tax for around 85% of properties in the district.

This increase only reflects the portion of Council Tax North Norfolk District Council charges and collects. Any changes to the charges levied by Norfolk County Council, Parish Councils and Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner will still be reflected in Council Tax bills for 2023/24.

The Council sets its budget and allocates its proportion of Council Tax income to allow it to provide services such as planning and refuse collections.

VOTER ID

District and Parish Elections will take place on Thursday 4th May. At these elections voters will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in these and all subsequent UK elections. This is national Government policy and will apply to the NNDC elections and parish elections on 4th May 2023.

- **Voters or their proxies will not be issued with a ballot paper unless they present acceptable ID at the polling station.**

Those without suitable form of ID can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate – you can apply online, by post or in person.

For further details of these changes (including application for a Voter Authority Certificate) please visit – <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/electoral-services/elections-act-2022/>

The procedure for postal voting remains unchanged and details are also on the NNDC website.

LEVELLING UP BIDS

NNDC submitted two bids to the second round of the £2.1 billion Levelling-up fund from central government.

The Fakenham Leisure and Sports hub bid was aimed at expanding the offering at the existing Fakenham Sports Centre to include a swimming pool and artificial grass pitch alongside improvements to the existing facilities.

The Cromer an investment programme in the public open space and related infrastructure of Cromer's clifftop gardens and wild spaces.

Unfortunately, both of these bids have been unsuccessful and feedback has been sought about the reasons for the decision.

Local Plan for North Norfolk

There is a Special Meeting of the District Council being held this evening (1st March) with a recommendation to seek Council authority to submit the North Norfolk Local Plan for independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate prior to the Council then seeking to adopt it for the District.

The purpose of this is to ensure that the District has an up to date and sound Local Plan in place against which to make decisions on planning and related applications for development. This is tied in with other considerations such as the 5 Year Land Supply and allows the Council as the Local Planning Authority to ensure that policies are consistent and resist speculative developments.

Tom FitzPatrick

District Councillor for Walsingham Ward

(The Barshams, Great Snoring, Little Snoring, Sculthorpe & Walsingham)

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