

North Walsham Town Council

March 30, 2021 Meeting

Report - North Walsham Liberal Democrat County & District Councillors

COVID

As the Government is expecting social measures currently to continue into the Summer no changes are planned by the District Council to the current arrangements in the town centre. This means that the current barriers to widen the pavement outside Lloyds bank will remain, the two planters and seats in Market Place will not be moved, the free parking on part of the Bank Loke car park will continue and on the grounds of public safety with the narrowing of the road outside Lloyds Bank buses will continue to not use Market Place. These arrangements will be kept under review as the Summer progresses.

With the limitations on foreign holidays the expectation is that North Norfolk could be experiencing a record number of visitors this year. This is good news for the tourist and hospitality industry. It will however, put pressure on major coastal and inland areas that receive visitors when it comes to car park availability, the depositing and collection of rubbish and the capacity of our public toilets. The District Council has received some funding under the Government's 'Welcome Back' agenda to help cope with these pressures and will be having discussions with relevant Town /Parish Councils on how they can help.

Drainage Issues Lynfield Estate

In early November last year plans by Norfolk County Council Highways department to install up to two underground storage tanks on the Lynfield estate to take excess rainwater during periods of heavy rain had to be abandoned due to engineering problems. Concerns were expressed at the time that flooding would continue without an improved drainage system and a solution had to be found.

County Council Highways have recently advised that working closely with Anglian Water an alternative solution is being developed. It will still involve underground storage tanks but using a different approach. The works are planned for late summer when the water in the ground should be low. Funding for the works remains.

Midland Rd Car Park

The District Council has now bought the remaining land on the Midland Rd car park from the County Council for a relatively small sum. This means that all the land on this car park now belongs to the District Council.

The intention of the District Council is that all of this car park should remain a free to use car parking area. Historically the site has been a well used facility for people working in the town, people using the trains and visitors.

As the Town Council already looks after part of this car park the District Council wishes to enter into a similar arrangement with the Town Council for the rest of the car park. It means for that a very nominal rent the Town Council maintains the car parks and parking.

EGS
30/3/21