

NNTPF Update 30—07-21

To all Town and Parish Clerks and Councillors

Please find below the latest update from the North Norfolk Town and Parish Forum

Second Homes

I am sure all of you are busy dealing with the ongoing impact of COVID and the high numbers of visitors to the area. With the growing popularity of staycations the issue of second homes and holiday lets (SH/HL) and the impact they are having on our communities has been highlighted. **I must first point out that the NNTPF is not against SH/HL.** We appreciate how dependent our tourist-based economy is on this housing option. However, we must look at the ways we can mitigate the impact on our local communities, housing for local need and the sustainability of our communities. It is to this end which the Forum is working.

We recently met with Duncan Baker MP and the Minister for Housing the Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP (MHCLG) In this meeting it was stressed the community appreciated the changes to the 140 days ruling but still awaited on the detail before reserving judgement as to how effective this would be. It was also stressed about the need for affordable rentals for the area since even with a 30% reduction from market price so called affordable shared ownership homes are not affordable with an income to housing ratio ranging across the area from 1:12- 1:16

The Minister was interested in our ideas for mitigation and requested we send in more information and our suggestions regarding this. The letter which we sent via Duncan Baker and with his support is attached.

NNTPF-NNDC Quarterly Meeting

I hope that you have received the minutes from the Quarterly Meeting with NNDC. The next meeting will take place early in October – a little later than planned but allows for a reply from the MHCLG and a busy summer dealing with COVID and visitors. It also gives Parish and Town councils the time to let us know of any issues which you would like to consider for this meeting. As you know we are not just dealing with the issue of second homes but aim to be a line of communication for issues which may be common across several parishes/Clerks. **Please send your issues for consideration in the Agenda by Friday 1st October to lizwithington1@gmail.com** It is helpful if you can include any relevant data or info to back up the problem. We will stick to dealing with issues which are

common across the board. Please contact your District Councillor if you have problems specific to your parish.

Land Availability for Homes for Local Need

Moving forward we wish to do some work on supporting and encouraging P&T Councils developing housing for local need as small developments or rural Exceptions sites. To this end we would like to know about small pockets of land which may potentially be a land supply for houses for local need. If you can let us know the location, approximate size and the ownership. Eg; Norfolk County Council, NNDC, local land owner, local business and whether this is beyond your parish settlement boundary or not. Please contact Gordan Partridge with this information. gpartridge406215@aol.com

It is with the support of P&T Councils providing us with data and information that we are able to move issues forward. We are aware that many P&T Councils have been looking at developing info about the housing need in their area. We would very much appreciate if you have undertaken some work in this area that you share it with us to help us get a picture across the district. Please contact Vivien Williams with this information.

vivien.williams578@btinternet.com

Empty Homes

Along a similar vein we would much appreciate it if you could let us know about the empty homes you have in your parishes. The quantity, length of time they have been empty for and if known if any are second homes- For instance I am aware of a second home in Sheringham that has not been visited for 3 years. Not so easy for larger parishes I am aware. Please contact Alex Howe with this information alex@camelotcraft.co.uk

Fairer Funding Formula Review

Also attached is the letter, which we have sent into Government regarding the Fairer Funding Formula Review. Many of you will be aware that this continues to be delayed and the response ongoing. We can still influence this however and in an area where core spending for the council is being reduced year on year and a high number of elderly people, poor rural transport and significant number of SH/HL, local authorities are dealing with additional costs. It is important therefore, that the cost drivers within the formula do reflect the true cost of the provision of services and support for our specific area. We would encourage you to share this letter with your Council and consider making your own Council response to the MHCLG alex.skinner@comunities.gov.uk

Flooding

Finally, from the Quarterly NNTPF-NNDC meeting in May can I remind you that Paul Rice would like to hear about the issues you are experiencing with flooding and can be contacted at modelr2018@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you and that leads me to just say that together as one voice we are stronger and can make a difference to the quality of our residents lives so please do continue to be involved in the FORUM.

If you have not yet become involved and would like to be please ask your Council to pass a resolution stating, you would like to be part of the FORUM – there is no cost associated with being a member. Secondly please agree as a Council the member to represent you at the Quarterly meetings. This member will need to have the relevant information passed on to them from your Clerk and also take responsibility for sharing the work of the forum with your Council and to pass on your Council's concerns, which you may want addressing.

As you can see although we initially came into being as a result of concerns over second homes we are dealing with many issues now common to Parishes across the district. In addition it has become an effective and welcome channel of communication between the parishes and NNDC following the dissolving of the Parish Forums by the previous administration.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Quarterly NNTPF- NNDC Meeting in October.

Kindest Regards

Liz Withington

Cllr Liz Withington: Chair NNTPF

NNDC Sheringham North

Sheringham Town Council