

North Walsham Town Council

November 30, 2021, Meeting

Report - District Councillors 'North Walsham Liberal Democrats'

New Public Toilets

North Norfolk District Council's Cabinet at their meeting on Monday November 29th agreed funding (potentially £250k) to provide new public toilets in the centre of North Walsham to replace the existing toilets on Vicarage St car park. They are required to be delivered by the end of the 2022 calendar year. These new toilets will have changing Place facilities to cater for users with complex health conditions. The exact location of the new toilets is to be determined.

Heritage Action Zone Proposals for Market Place.

The Council will be aware of concerns being raised by some traders over the proposals to make Market Place more 'pedestrian friendly'. The current position of local District Cllrs was set out in a letter from Cllr Eric Seward that was published in last week's North Norfolk News (letter below). At the time of writing this report a response from Norfolk County Council's Highways Dept is awaited on the proposed road and pavement layout following public consultation and on the kind of traffic regulations that can be introduced to restrict and control future traffic movements in Market Place. This will determine how the proposals are progressed.

Making North Walsham Better

The improvements planned for North Walsham Town Centre are definitely not change for the sake of change (letter last week).

The long and extensive consultation seeking views on what improvements there should be to the centre of North Walsham produced a wide range of responses. One of the most dominant requests from local residents was that the town centre should be a safer and more accessible place to visit. For this more pedestrian friendly approach to be achieved this is what is proposed:-

- restrict the entry of most vehicles into Market Place for a limited period during the day when most shoppers visit the town. No wholesale pedestrianisation with vehicles being banned all day is proposed.
- the existing number of disabled parking places to be kept in Market Place and be able to be used at any time.
- loading and deliveries by cars and vans will continue to be permitted in Market Place at all times
- re design the layout of the road and pavements in Market Place to slow traffic and make it a safer and more attractive place for pedestrians to use.
- 16 free one hour parking bays in the nearby Bank Loke and Vicarage St car parks to replace the loss of the short stay free parking bays in Market Place.
- ample car parking to be kept close to the town centre for people to use.

To support these proposals improvements to entrances to Market Place are planned along with new public toilets and a safer place for passengers to access buses on part of New Rd car park. A generous grant scheme to help improve some buildings in and around Market Place is also available.

This significant investment in North Walsham under North Norfolk District Council's Heritage Action Zone project is designed to encourage residents and visitors to come and use the shops, cafes and businesses in North Walsham's town centre. I would like to think that a thriving town centre is what we all want.

EGS

29/11/21