

NNDC District Councillor

Town Council Report – 22nd February 2022

Car Park Charges

At North Norfolk District Council's Full Council meeting on February 23rd some modest increases in parking charges at the Council's car parks are proposed. They are based on the Consumer Price Index inflation rate of 16 per cent since the charges were last raised in 2016. For North Walsham car parks which are on a standard tariff it means a charge of £1.20 p for the first two hours (currently £1) and 80 p for each subsequent hour (currently 70p) and an all-day rate of £6 (currently £5). There is no change to the 30 min charge of 50p. The increases in charges required a new Car Parking Order which will be subject to public consultation. The changes are scheduled to start on July 1st.

Season ticket permit charges remain unchanged. They have largely remained the same since 2009. A yearly 24 hr season ticket costs £204 per annum and a yearly 3hr season ticket £56 per annum. They are mainly bought by residents and can also be bought for periods of 3 and 6 months. For residents who use the Council's car parks on a fairly regular basis they provide the cheapest way of doing so.

The Council relies upon car park income to support a range of services that it is not required by law to provide. This includes public toilets, parks, foreshore activities and maintenance of Cromer Pier.

Heritage Action Zone (HAZ)

Actual building work is now about to commence. It will start with improvements to Church Approach (The Shambles) at the end of February. The work is scheduled to take 3 months and a Public Information Notice is being distributed. It is being undertaken by contractors engaged by Norfolk County Council.

At Cedar House (former Town Council offices) work to refurbish the building is also about to start. The bees inhabiting the building have been safely removed. The contractor carrying out the refurbishment specialises in the restoration of historic buildings. As the year progresses work on improvements to Market Place and Black Swan Loke, as well as the Bus Interchange at New Rd car park will be carried out. Progress is also being made on proposals for improvements to public toilets in the town.

Whilst these significant works are being carried out there will be some inconvenience to residents and businesses. The aim is to keep them to a minimum. Where particular issues arise for a business from works that are taking place arrangements to address them will be explored.

General

Miyawaki forests are small tree planting projects that offer an innovative way of planting trees that promote rapid tree growth. A joint project with NCC, projects are on-going at Sheringham, Fakenham and on the Acorn Rd field, North Walsham. The ground has been prepared and fenced off and planting begins on Friday 25th February. Volunteers are welcome to come along and plant trees.

It was reported that many trees and shrubs on the Hornbeam Rd estate had died or are in poor condition. NNDC Officers surveyed the area and confirmed these reports. Hopkins agents have subsequently been asked to replace all that have died.

Plans to move the covid testing station from Vicarage Rd car park to the Hornbeam Rd car park are progressing. This will free up space at Vicarage Rd, part of which will be used as a construction compound for the HAZ project contractors.

NNDC has held tree give away events at Holt Country park (HCP). Any NN resident can take away a free tree with stake and guard for planting on their own land. The last event in January was so successful that another and final tree give away event for this planting season will be held on 12th March at HCP between 10 am and 2 pm.

A consultation on dog restrictions (dogs on leads, dog fouling, dog exclusions) across the towns and parishes on North Norfolk has been undertaken. There are no changes to North Walsham.