

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

05 October 2022

COUNCILLOR R KERSHAW - CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

For the period July to September 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

North Walsham Town Centre Heritage Action Zone

A number of key activities have commenced/are presently being undertaken, summarised as follows.

- Repair and restoration works on the Cedars continue. Discussions are being held with a range of potential future users;
- Work on the Church Approach/Shambles slope, is almost complete, with just a few items awaiting delivery/installation. The space has been partially handed over to allow access and minor 'snagging' works and cleaning will be carried out by the contractors. Repair and redecoration work will soon be carried out on the rear wall of 28 Market Place which backs onto the public realm area on Church Approach and will contribute to the overall improvement of the space.
- The Travel Hub on New Road carpark, developed in partnership with Norfolk County Council (NCC) and North Walsham Town Council, has been completed creating three bus bays. Refurbishment of the public conveniences at New Road carpark has been completed and a 'changing places' facility and family room installed to improve the facilities available to the public.
- Improvements to the highways and public realm in the Market Place, will commence on 12 September. Works to be carried out in this phase include: widened footpaths and paved areas for pedestrians, paved road surface, installation of seating and planters, installation of bike racks, provision of power points and arrangements for market stalls and events, provision of new crossing points and increased capacity for loading and deliveries through new and better positioned bays. Cleaning and maintenance of existing areas and paving will also be undertaken
- The Building Improvement Grant scheme has been well received and a healthy number of applications are in the pipeline. Five grant applications have been approved to-date and work has commenced on-site on two properties. Twenty eight expressions of interest have been submitted.

Public Sector Procurement Event

NNDC, Norfolk County Council Procurement team, and the Norfolk Chambers of Commerce, held a free public sector procurement webinar on 7 September. The main theme of the event was to inspire and prepare SMEs to access wider public sector supply chain opportunities. Presentations provided guidance on tendering process, tips to write a tender, the importance of social value and how to support net zero commitments. Local SMEs that have successfully won contracts also spoke and will hopefully inspire more North Norfolk SMEs to explore public sector contract opportunities. Initial feedback from attendees was very positive with the majority stating that they had a greater understanding of the public sector procurement process and were much more confident to bid for public sector contract opportunities in the future.

Visitor Economy

The latest marketing campaign film, delivered by Visit North Norfolk is now live and entitled 'Wonderful Walk in North Norfolk'. The film and blog will be promoted via ads on Facebook, Instagram and Google Remarketing as well as e-comms to a database of around 30,000 consumers.

The video can be viewed at: <https://www.visitnorthnorfolk.com/>

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Local Flavours Event

NNDC will be sponsoring and represented at the Local Flavours event taking place at the Norfolk Showground on 21 September, alongside local businesses from within District. The purpose of the event is to bring together local food suppliers and customers to do business and to raise the profile of the strength and diversity of local producers within the local market place

3 Meetings attended

