

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 March 2023

COUNCILLOR GAY - CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, WELLBEING AND CULTURE.

For the period February to March 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters - Leisure

Leisure Centres

The Solar car-port scheme at the Reef Leisure Centre is set to progress shortly having recently been agreed.

Everyone Active has launched a new policy relating to swimwear in their facilities, a more flexible approach is designed to help those who may have avoided water-based activity because of what they had to wear.

NNDC and Everyone Active are sharing the costs of two new pool covers for the contract's two swimming pools.

Synergy Trust, who operate Stalham High School, have approached NNDC regarding the possibility of the taking the dual use sports centre operations back in house. As discussion progresses on this topic further updates will be provided.

Countryside

The tree planting project was completed and celebrated with a ceremony at Holt Country Park (HCP) recently. The Countryside team have been instrumental in this project and were pleased to have been involved with the celebration event.

The Cromer Miyawaki Forest has been installed on the field between Warren Woods and Links Wood.

Work on the fencing for the community tree nursery at Pretty Corner is due to begin imminently.

The team are busy procuring for woodland machinery to support their manual operations, which will be funded by a successful capital bid.

There are plans to hold Easter trails at Sadlers Wood and Holt Country Park.

Beaches

Negotiations have recently taken place with the RNLI regarding NNDC contributions to the service over the next 5 years.

The main season for lifeguarding the beaches will begin on April 29th this year.

Good progress has been made in conjunction with several partner organisations with respect to the approach to managing jet ski use in the district. The RNLI, NNDC, Coastguard, Coastwatch, Marine Police and local jet ski users are all involved.

Health and Wellbeing/Sports Development

The decision was made to cancel the Mammoth Marathon due to a poorer than expected uptake. Continuing the project would have had significant financial and reputational repercussions for the organisation.

NW 3G project has been postponed for now, but a pavilion project is now being considered with the Football Foundation. To date only early conversations have taken place.

Cromer 3G project is in the process of being initiated, it is hoped that the first two stages – desktop study and site surveys – will commence shortly.

The opening School fund has received a good uptake in North Norfolk compared to other districts, with £35000 allocated to schools in NN in round one.

NN's Together Fund pot has been spent on local projects and we are tapping into underspend from other areas.

Active NoW is slow progress as expected, although referrals do seem to be flowing through the system more regularly now. This was anticipated by the team and they are continuing to work with partners on this project.

The next round of Big Norfolk Holiday Fund will take place over the Easter holidays, with 16 providers in NN taking part.

Markets & Foreshores

The two new Markets and Foreshore Inspector posts have now been filled, one permanent and one seasonal. These new positions ensure that two previous separate roles have been combined and allow for a more effective use of resource and weekend cover.

We are aware of the coastal defence schemes for Cromer and Mundesley and will be in discussion with the coastal team to see how this may affect our foreshores & beaches.

Pier Pavilion

The refurbishment works have now been completed, these have included a new bar, redesign of the toilets, including baby change and accessible units and the creation of a new office space. Bi fold windows have been added to the west side to allow for an ice cream concession. An official opening to mark the completion of this work took place on Thursday 16th March.

As of March 10th, like for like bookings are up year-on-year for the summer show, concerts and the Christmas show. It is obviously early days but this trend is pleasing to see.

We are working on some literature and education for the public regarding crabbing, which we hope to have ready for the peak season. Openwide will support NNDC with getting this message out.

Tides bistro has been doing very well recently, particularly with the introduction of breakfasts.

3 Meetings attended

In addition to regularly scheduled meetings and briefings, I have attended the planting of the 110,000th tree on March 7th and the opening of the restored Pavilion foyer and bar at Cromer Pier on March 16th.