

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**20<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**COUNCILLOR ANDREW BROWN - CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT**

For the period July to September 2023

### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

#### **Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan**

The referendum for the Plan will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

See: [Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan](#)

#### **Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document**

The Council formally adopted the Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

See: [Coastal Adaptation SPD](#)

#### **Development Management Performance**

The Development Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> September considered a report on performance with determining applications. At the end of August 2023 the position was:

- 100% of major applications had been determined in time over the previous two years;
- 93.6% of non-major applications had been determined in time over the same time period;
- No major application decisions had been overturned on appeal in that period; and
- 1.28% of non-major decisions had been overturned in that period.

Those figures compare very well with the national targets of 60%, 70%, 10% and 10% respectively.

That Development Committee also considered an update on the position with regard to appeals 'against' planning decisions and showed that there are currently 27 North Norfolk 'live' appeals. A couple of those are likely to be

determined at 'public inquiry', a couple via the 'informal hearing mechanism and the rest via the 'written representation procedure. Of the 'in person' ones – only one has a date set – that being for an 'informal hearing' on a proposal at Storage Barn, Morston Road, Blakeney is taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

See: [Dev Management Performance Sept 2023](#) and [Appeals Performance Sept 2023](#)

### **Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal**

The Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party discussed work on this at its' meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Cabinet will consider their recommendations at its' October meeting and if it is agreed then a further period of public consultation will commence shortly thereafter. Assuming things go relatively smoothly the current timetable would result in the work being reported to Council in December for final agreement.

See: [Working Party Report on GVCA](#)

### **Holt Neighbourhood Plan**

Following a referendum the Hold Neighbourhood Plan was formally 'made' and brought into force by the Council as part of the Development Plan on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The Council's pro-active engagement in this Plan's production is featured in the current edition of Outlook where the Clerk is quoted: "*The Town Council were grateful to be able to work with the Neighbourhood planning team at NNDVC, their knowledge, advice and support made the process run a lot smoother.*"

See: [Holt Neighbourhood Plan](#)

### **Local Plan**

Our Plan has been submitted and the Planning Policy team are in regular dialogue with the appointed Planning Inspector. It is looking likely that the Examination sessions will be in 2024 rather than 2023 as no dates have yet been proposed. At this stage it is not known what issues the Inspector will wish to discuss at Examination.

See: [Local Plan Web-Page](#)

### **North Walsham West Draft Development Brief**

A consultation period on this has started – following discussion at Working Party and agreement at Cabinet. There is a link to the consultation documentation from the Council's web-site home page. The consultation closes on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023. Two public drop-in events will be held (on 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September) in North Walsham.

See: [North Walsham West Web-Page](#)

### **Nutrient Neutrality**

On 29 August 2023, the Government announced proposed changes to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill linked to nutrient neutrality.

Based on the announcement, it appears likely that the impacts of 'Nutrient Neutrality' will be resolved and that – if and when the amended Bill becomes law, then the Council would be in a position to progress planning applications towards a positive determination (in the event that affected planning applications are acceptable from all other perspectives).

However, the legislation needed to resolve nutrient neutrality will need to be enacted, which is expected to take a matter of months.

Whilst the Council will seek to deal with applications as soon as possible, in the event that Nutrient Neutrality matters are resolved, it is worth observing that we currently have around 100(+) applications held up due to this issue.

Many of those will also need to be considered by the Council's Development Committee, which will take time and careful scheduling over the coming months.

See: [Government Announcement on Nutrient Neutrality](#)

### **Planning Service Improvement Plan**

A progress report on the PSIP is being considered at Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023. All elements of the Plan should be completed by the end of this Municipal Year. The report to O&S focusses – at their request – on the issue of timeliness of replies to our consultation requests to external organisations.

See: [O&S Report on Planning Service Improvement Plan](#)

## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments**

- Cabinet: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023
- Planning Portfolio Holder Meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> September
- Development Committee: 28<sup>th</sup> September (reserve date) and 12<sup>th</sup> October
- Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party: 9<sup>th</sup> October

### **3 Meetings attended / attending (up to 20<sup>th</sup> September)**

- Development Committee: 20<sup>th</sup> July, 17<sup>th</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> September
- Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party: 7<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> September
- Joint Staff Consultative Committee: 6<sup>th</sup> September
- Parish / Town Council Engagement Forum: 12<sup>th</sup> September
- Governance, Risk and Audit Committee: 12<sup>th</sup> September
- LGA Peer Review Meetings: week of 11<sup>th</sup> September
- Overview & Scrutiny Committee: 13<sup>th</sup> September
- Licensing Committee: 18<sup>th</sup> September
- Plus: Planning Portfolio Monthly Review, Business Planning, Planning Service Improvement Plan Review and Housing Strategy Review Meetings