District Councillor Report June 26

Planning

Planning laws will change on 31st October 2026. You will still be able to comment on applications but I will no longer be able to call applications in for the Planning Committee hear and make decisions. In my opinion this is not very democratic as we are no longer able to question decisions made by a planning officer. I understand that planning officers are not happy either as they see the current system a check on them which they approve of. Not very many applications are called 'In' and of those most are approved and it is seen as a process that works. It maybe that in other parts of the Country numerous applications are called in and the planning committees are over whelmed. So the new rules are "one size fits all".

Greater Norwich Local Plan

The Greater Norwich authorities are preparing a new local plan.

This process is prompted by national planning reform and the governments new method for calculating housing need. In addition , the government has introduced na new plan-making system, which changes the way local plans are prepared.

In February this year the Greater Norwich authorities opened an initial "Call for Sites" and Landowners, developers and other interested parties were invited to submit sites that may be suitable for housing, employment and other uses.

There is now another opportunity to submit sites that may be suitable or uture development by opening the Call for Sites for any type of development can be submitted, but in particular.

Brownfield sites on Norwich City Centre locations

Gypsy and Traveller sites

The call will be open from 15-06-26 to 13-07-26

The submission of a sites does not guarantee it will be allocated. This will form the basis of a future public consultation. More details will follow.

Devolution

Following on to the Secretary of State's decision to make Norfolk into a 3 devolution County, SNC have made an application to get answers to how the decision was made, was it political or in the best interest of the residents? At present, although SNC have asked, no answers have been forth coming, which is why a Judicial Review has been made.

Diss Leisure Centre

Work has started this week to build the new leisure centre.