

Newsletter Number 38



FUTURE MEETINGS

to be held at Christchurch, King Street, NR30 2HL

TUESDAY, 15 OCTOBER at 7.30pm

REVISITING EMPLOYMENT

By Sarah Flindall, General Practitioner.

Her talk will cover how it is possible to improve children's education and the chances of obtaining jobs.

RECENT MEETING

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm

DEVELOPMENTS AND PLANS FOR THE TOWN

By Carl Smith, Leader of the Council.

Carl Smith said that in recent years £300M had been invested in the town by various grants and this had led to further investment by private enterprise. He praised the leadership of Sheila Oxtoby, whom he reckoned was the best local authority CEO in the country, her team of officers and our High Steward who is the chair of the Town Board.

£121M had been spent on the Herring Bridge which had dramatically eased traffic congestion, saved businesses time and fuel bills and had encouraged new firms to move into the area. The Covered Market had cost £6.9M and all units are occupied. The landscaping of the Market Place should be completed in the Spring and the plans for the Sculpture trail are well advanced.

£20M of Levelling up funding is enabling the purchasing of properties on North Quay which hopefully will lead to £130M of private investment providing homes, businesses, leisure activities and hundreds of jobs.

During the Covid epidemic the Council handed out £68M of government grants to people and businesses.

The Winter Gardens have attracted £22M of funding and recently the chief gardener of Kew Gardens visited and gave advice on planting schemes. It is hoped it will open in Spring 2027

The old Palmers building was bought by the Council and it will open as the University Learning Centre including the Library next spring. The James Paget University Hospital will be teaching

nurses there and it is hoped that dental technicians will be taught there and there will be provision for providing dental treatment.

Footfall in the town has increased by 70% compared with last year, the Marina is a roaring success and running at a profit.

Last year the Borough Council was joint winner in the LGC National Award for Economic Support for the work on the O and M Campus at South Denes and this year won the prize of Council of the Year. An amazing achievement.

Following his talk Carl answered many questions on a whole range of issues.

This was followed by the **AGM**.

Governments National Planning Policy Framework

Civic Voice - the umbrella organisation for Civic Societies has been holding a number of meetings soon the above. I have attended a session on this and submitted comments about it. If you wish to see the Civic Voice's Press release about its response to the government you can read it here.

<https://www.civicvoice.org.uk/news/press-release-civic-voice-responds-to-national-planning-policy-framework-consultation/>. This will also give you access to a more detailed discussion.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK

On 1st August I met with the head of Norfolk and Suffolk Restorative Justice Hub to see if we could provide opportunities for people who have committed minor crimes. I made some suggestions and mentioned some other organisations which might be able to help and with one exception all are supportive of the idea.

YOUNG COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

To encourage young people to take an interest in their community we have set up a competition for schoolchildren. The competition is open to all secondary schools in Great Yarmouth Borough and invites them to submit one or two projects that they are doing to help the local community. The project will be presented by up to six pupils and will be held in the Town Hall between 1 pm and 3 pm on Tuesday 15 October. Each team will receive a certificate and the winning team and runner up will receive a trophy. If you would like to attend please let me know.

HISTORY FAIR

This takes place on Saturday 14 September in the Minster as part of the Great Yarmouth Arts Festival. We have a stall there and you might find it interesting seeing what other societies promoting Great Yarmouth and its heritage are doing. Art in the Minster is also on until Saturday, 21 September.

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