

## **District Council's Report September 2023**

### Nutrient Neutrality

The ruling on NN has been cancelled and in essence, Nutrient issues will not be a material consideration when assessing planning applications. Housing can now get back to normal and new houses can start to be built again.

It is now the responsibility of DEFRA, Env Agency, Natural England and the water companies to do what they are supposed to do, clean up the water, in the rivers and elsewhere, not pass the buck to others to get them to do their work. They have been given £140m to do the job.

### The Local Plan

After 6 years the local plan is nearly complete and ready for publication. Inspectors have been through it with a fine tooth comb with very few modifications.

The only issue to arise the issue of a new settlement, we and the electorate do not want anymore large estates being added to existing towns and villages, we see the only way forward is to create a new town in the A11 corridor. Properly planned with all the necessary infrastructure in place. The time is now to start thinking about where and the financing of it. It will help our economy and reduce the pressure on market towns and villages. A new fresh start is required.

### Village Clusters plan

The clusters plan recognises that not all development can take place in the larger towns and settlements, the smaller villages need to have limited development so that they keep alive. With younger families, adding scale to shops, schools, and bus services.

### Developments in Diss

SNC have now completed the purchase of the Ford Dealership on Park Road and the piece of land on the opposite side of the road next to the bus station. A master plan for the acquisition is under way for the use of the building and its location next to the Mere and park.

The swimming pool will undergo a major overhaul, a one level pool, re-tile it, new changing rooms, coffee shop, heating from solar and air source pumps. Relocate the gym. The money to do this is available, a complete once in 30 years refurbishment.

### Car Parking charges

A review of the charges is set to take place, this has not been done since 2008 when the first hour free was introduced. The first hour free will be retained but modest increases may be introduced for periods after that. New ways of paying need discussion, coins, app payment, card tapping or all 3. At sometime re-surfacing work will need to be completed and more electric charging points made available, these all cost money and need to be financed.

## Long Stratton Bypass

We are told that the planning permission for the Long Stratton Bypass is imminent and could be issued this week. If so this ends the 15 year focus on getting the bypass consented, financed and procured.

Finally, as the Chairman of SNC I nominate and raise funds for a charity, this year I have chosen MIND. MIND are now working with SNC to support the work we do with those who have mental health issues.

I am to take part in and run a 5k inflatable obstacle course on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September taking place at the Royal Norfolk Showground, if you would like to sponsor me, please let me know so I can add you to the list.