

UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR TOM FITZPATRICK

BARSHAMS & HOUGHTON ST GILES

15TH MARCH 2021

LOCKDOWN & NNDC CUSTOMER SERVICES

Step 1 out of lockdown started on 8th March 2021. This includes schools reopening, increased outdoor exercise options and one visitor allowed for care home residents. You should still keep two metres away from other people.

Remember ⇒ HANDS – FACE – SPACE

- NNDC customer services reception remains closed for walk in face-to-face enquiries. However, staff are available to help you and can be contacted through the NNDC website, by phone or email.
- Face-to-face appointments are only available for genuine emergency situations, vulnerable residents or complex cases which cannot be dealt with via other means.

For up-to-date information about our services and links to useful advice, see the Coronavirus page on the NNDC website.

CENSUS 2021

Sunday 21 March 2021 is Census Day in England and Wales and households should have received an initial contact card with preliminary information by the Census 2021 Team.

- ❖ North Norfolk District Council is encouraging all of our residents and property owners to complete the Census form, either in hard copy or online formats, when asked to by the Census 2021 team as the information provided is so important in understanding the changing structure and needs of our community over time and ensuring that we secure the appropriate level of funding to provide public services in the future.
- ❖ Information provided through the Census will allow for a deeper understanding of the communities and life experiences of people across North Norfolk in terms of health, education, employment, income, housing tenure and transport and inform policy development and funding for public services in years to come - so please complete the form and make sure North Norfolk's voice is heard in this national census.

More information and advice on how to answer the questions is available at [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk).

COUNTY COUNCIL AND POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS - 6TH MAY 2021

The government has confirmed that these elections will be held as scheduled on the 6th May 2021.

- A reminder - if anyone wishes to vote by post but has not already registered to do so, then they need to complete and return an application form.
- The application can be downloaded from the District Council website.
- Alternatively, people can request a form to apply for a postal vote:-
 - by email at postalvotes@north-norfolk.gov.uk or

- by phone on 01263 516046 and you will be sent a form.

AFFORDABLE HOMES PROVISION

The District Council has agreed to allocate almost £1m of existing Section 106 commuted sums to enable Registered Providers (housing associations) to deliver new affordable homes in North Norfolk.

The proposed £900k will help deliver the Council's objective of "Local Homes for Local Need," and will help provide a range of 181 good quality, energy efficient, affordable homes, including specialist extra care housing and affordable rent and shared ownership properties in various locations across the district.

NORTH NORFOLK SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FUND

The 2021 Panel of the North Norfolk Sustainable Communities Fund met earlier today (15th March 2021) to consider applications for grants available under the scheme of up to £15k.

Organisations and groups in the Parish should consider applying to this fund if they are undertaking community projects that require financial support and meet the criteria of the fund.

- Full details are on the NNDC website
- Informal discussions can be held with officers before submitting bids.

NNDC AGREES POLICY WITH DISTRICT TAXI ASSOCIATION

North Norfolk District Council has worked in consultation with the North Norfolk Taxi Association to update the Taxi Handbook, a policy document and code of practice for all operating taxi drivers in the District. The Handbook is issued to all licensed taxi drivers and covers a range of requirements for any Hackney Carriages and private hire vehicles and their drivers.

One of the key updates was the improvement of safeguarding mechanisms and checks, which have been updated in accordance to national guidance and good local practice. As well as the usual credentials, taxi drivers will agree to undertake a safeguarding and knowledge test, to ensure the safety of both the public and the taxi driver are understood and upheld in each journey.

The revised Taxi Handbook was approved unanimously at the last Full Council meeting on 24 February 2021.

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