

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

9 September 2021

COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG - CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES

For the period July to September 2021

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Town Hall – Sound System

As outlined in my meetings attended, I met staff and a sound engineer at the Town Hall to have a demonstration of equipment proposed for meetings and other functions going forwards. Equipment previously in use was cascaded from the Corn Exchange and was well past its best. So far meetings utilising new settings and equipment have been Cabinet and Planning, that I have attended, and quality was much improved over previous meetings.

CIC

The Customer Information Centre is now fully back to working on floor 2 and reception. Those on floor 2 are screened from each other with Perspex screening, thus creating a individual area for each person. While this measure was taken to prevent spread of Covid 19 it has also has the effect of isolation of sound from each caller, adding to privacy and improving background noise from other calls.

Public Open Space

Staff have once again provided some fantastic efforts in our parks and gardens, despite the pandemic. For many people access to parks and public gardens in most welcome and I applaud those staff involved in their upkeep. Councillors may have noted the banks of wildflowers on the Northern Bypass of Lynn and approaches to Hunstanton, these allow pollinators and other species habitat and save on regular cuts by mowing teams.

High Tides

The 26th / 27th August had both high predicted astronomical tides as expected and potential of N/NE breeze. The Environment Agency issued a flood alert, but while resort staff were briefed no problems were encountered at Hunstanton / Heacham.

Pontoons

Income for the use of the pontoons to date is £8703 for commercial craft and

£2287 for domestic use. I believe these figures were requested of Cllr Kunes when he held this portfolio and he may report separately.
Having discussed with officers it is my intention to include a favourable rate in our fees and charges for Charities utilising them, it is also really good to see pleasure trips starting and finishing on the pontoons.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

E-payslips

It is proposed that all payslips will become online and save issue of paper. The hold up on this being rolled out with our supplier of pay services. But I will advise on progress as I am aware.

Changing Places.

As mentioned previously our intention is to provide adult changing place within a suitable toilet block. This has been helped by Government announcing funding to deliver exactly this. I have asked officers to seek this grant funding if we can.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

In addition to the usual Cabinet and Portfolio meetings I also attended the following:

Demonstration of Audio Equipment for Town Hall
Subbed on Planning Committee
West Norfolk Housing Company
West Norfolk Property Company
Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance

Details of Meetings at time of writing
Alive West Norfolk Board
West Norfolk Housing Company
Water Management Alliance – Board Meeting
Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board
Norfolk Internal Flooding Alliance
Freebridge AGM (my last as a board member)
Meeting with Independent Panel for review of members allowances.
Visit to Gayton Road Cemetery ref ongoing water table issues.