

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

31st January 2024

COUNCILLOR MORIARTY- CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

For the period 19 October 2023 to 18th January 2024

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

I would first like to thank officers for their work in compiling this report.

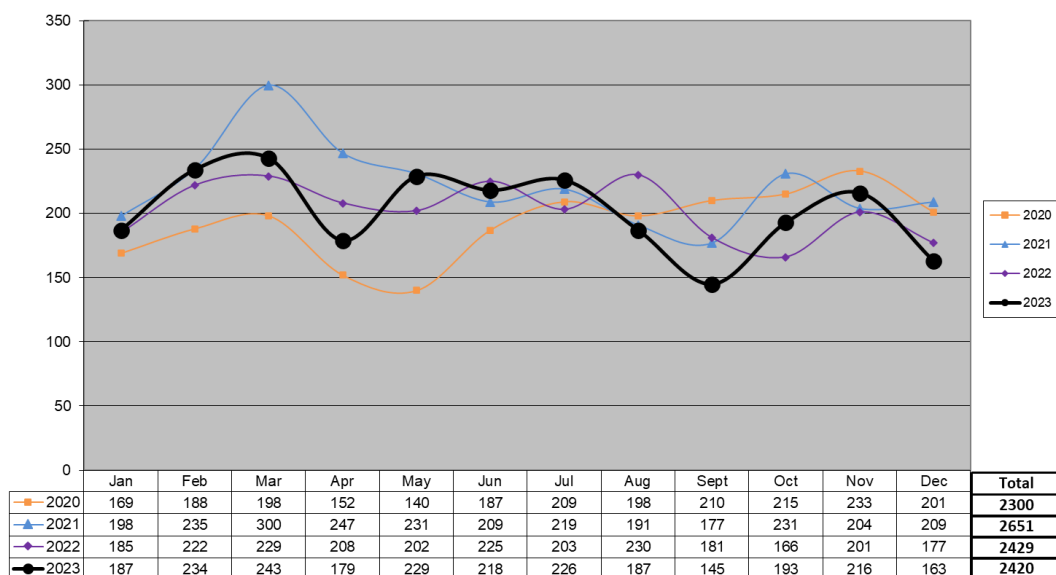
In my role as Chair of the West Winch Local Stakeholders Meeting I assisted in publicising the recent Information Evening on the access road organised by Norfolk County Council. It was very well attended and I am grateful to residents for the interest shown, and to officers and members of the road design team for being there and contributing to the five hour event.

The West Winch Housing Access Road application has been submitted to the County Council and is currently being validated. A meeting of the Local Stakeholders is due on Monday 22nd January and I may add to my report verbally at Full Council.

Planning and Discharge of Conditions applications received

Application numbers finished almost identical to the previous year.

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



Progress with recruitment

Planning Control – A Planner left the Authority on 14th January. A recruitment campaign held before Christmas was unfortunately unsuccessful with 3 vacant posts remaining, including the vacant South Team Principal Planner post. Contract planners have been instructed in the interim but we will review and go back out to advert in the next month.

Planning Policy – following a successful recruitment process I can confirm Alex Fradley has been appointed commenced on 29th January. Some of you will remember Alex as he has worked in the Policy team previously. The Graduate Planner post has been filled, one of the validating officers was successful.

Planning Enforcement – the Customer Support Officer post has been filled. One of the Enforcement Officers has left, and another will be retiring early February. The recruitment process has commenced.

Planning validation – as a result of a validating officer being successfully recruited to the Planning Policy team, we are going through the recruitment process and currently shortlisting candidates for interview.

Major and Minor dwelling applications and householder applications received comparison

	1/1/21 – 31/12/21	1/1/22 – 31/12/22	1/1/23 – 31/12/23
No. of Major dwelling applications rec'd	27	17	15
No. of Minor dwelling applications rec'd	328	302	253
No. of Householder applications rec'd	902	755	616
Total	1257	1074	884

*Minor dwelling applications = up to 10 units

Major dwelling applications = over 10 units

2022/23 performance for determining planning applications 1/1/23 – 31/12/23

	National target	Performance
Major	60%	88%
Non – Major	70%	86%

Appeal Performance – decisions made by The Planning Inspectorate 1/1/23 – 31/12/23

	Dismissed	Allowed
Planning appeals	32	18
	64%	36%

Enforcement appeals	6	0
	100%	0%

The higher the number of appeals allowed, the more The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) is going against the council's decisions, so a low figure of appeals allowed (upheld) is clearly preferable. For context the national average for planning appeals allowed annually has historically been around 34% post NPPF.

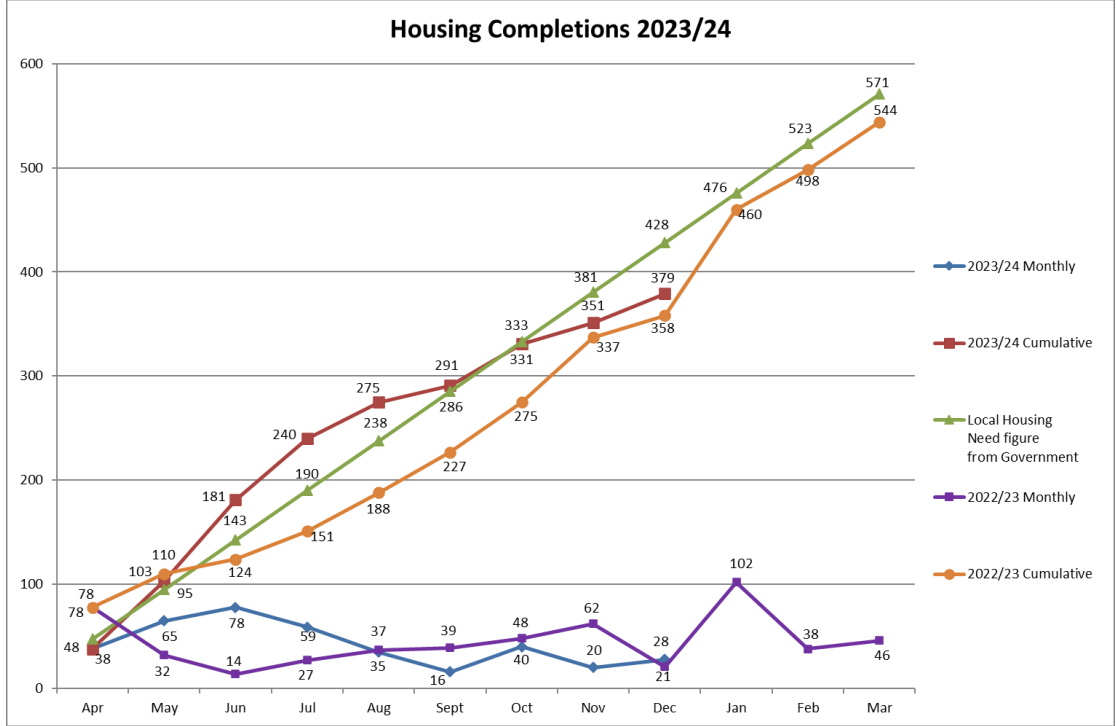
Revenue income 2023/24

Planning fees have increased and came into force on 6th December 2023. Fees for Major applications increased by 35% and Non-Major applications by 25%. Pre-application fees will also increase as they are based on a percentage of the planning fee.

Projected	Actual	Variance with projected
April 23 – Dec 23	April 23 – Dec 23	
£825,000	£747,212	-£77,788

Housing Completions

20 houses completed in November and 28 in December. Currently completions are down 49 on projected based on a local housing need figure from Government of 571 but up 21 compared to the same time last year.



Planning Control update

On 19th December 2023, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) update,

effective immediately, was published. The update was announced during the Secretary of State's speech about the government's ambitions for housing and infrastructure and the roll of planning in helping achieved them.

The NPPF update covers placemaking, housing delivery, neighbourhood plans, custom and self-build and greater protection for agricultural land amongst other topics. Training will be rolled out to Planning Committee Members in the coming months regarding NPPF changes.

The Secretary of State (SoS) also announced his ambitions on improving planning performance including planning decisions being taken on time and be robust in their reasoning and all authorities must have an up-to-date local plan. The SoS requires greater transparency and faster processes and will be taking direct action on poor performing LPAs.

Additional financial support has already been provided in the form of increased planning fees (came into effect 6th December 2023) and up to £100,000 Planning Skills Delivery Fund monies per LPA to clear the backlog of planning applications and to develop specialist skills and expertise. Officers have been successful in securing a £100,000 grant.

CIL Update

CIL Infrastructure Projects – 2024 Applications

Cabinet approved the CIL Governance Policy Document in December. The CIL Funding Applications opened on 1st January, and will be accepted up to 5pm on 1st February.

CIL infrastructure funding for 2024, will be selected by the Spending Panel, to projects that fall within the following criteria:

Green Infrastructure Projects

- Projects relating to public open spaces such as new or improved footpaths and cycleways to support new development.
- Installation and improvement of public play areas and equipment.
- Open spaces used for education, to support environmental initiatives.
- Improvement of habitats for wildlife and nature, to alleviate the effects of new development.
- Environmental services such as flood defence or absorption of air pollution.

Leisure Time Activities Infrastructure

- Infrastructure projects, to support accessible leisure time activities such as new facilities, improvement of existing facilities or upgrade of facilities to enable an increase of usage, to support new development of an area.

The amount of CIL available, to be allocated in this round of applications, is £878,336.31.

CIL Project Update - to date:

- £3.2m of CIL has already been allocated to 205 projects within the Borough.
- 118 Projects have been completed and £1.7m paid.
- As projects require match funding, additional funding excluding CIL, used for these projects totals £3.9m

CIL Parish Payments – to date:

In addition to funding Projects, Parishes with development also receive CIL Parish Payments. To date £1.1m has been distributed to 81 parishes.

Local Plan Update (ongoing examination of the replacement Local Plan 2021-2039)

A summary of the representations received through the recent consultation on the additional evidence base (which ended on 20 October 2023) was reported to the Local Plan Task Group on the 22 November 2023. The original representations and summary representations (together with the Council's response) have been sent onto the Planning Inspectors, for their consideration.

Since November 2023, the Planning Policy team has been focused upon the need to put forward land allocations to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (GTTS), identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), June 2023. A programme/ timeframe for the ongoing GTTS work for the Local Plan examination is set out below:

- 8/ 10 January 2024 – Consideration of cabinet report regarding Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Potential Sites and Policy Consultation document by Local Plan Task Group and Regeneration & Development Panel.
- 15 January 2024 – Cabinet approval of GTTS Potential Sites and Policy Consultation document, for public consultation.
- 26 January – 8 March 2024 (inclusive) – GTTS Potential Sites and Policy Consultation document consultation.
- w/c 22 April 2024 – Possible extraordinary meeting of Full Council, to approve GTTS site allocations and policies for submission to the Planning Inspectors.

Dates have also now been agreed for the reconvened Local Plan examination hearings, as follows:

- 26-28 March 2024
- 16-19 April 2024

Further hearings dates for the Gypsy and Traveller policy examination are likely to be end of June or July 2024. This would be followed by consultation on Proposed Main

Modifications to the Local Plan by late 2024.

Neighbourhood Planning Update

During 2023, several Neighbourhood Plans have come forward. As of January 2024, there were 18 “made” (adopted) Plans in place. Details of recently made (since 2023) and emerging Neighbourhood Plans are set out as follows.

Recently “made” Neighbourhood Plans

	Current position
Burnham Market Neighbourhood Development Plan 2022-2036	Passed at referendum, 21 September 2023; “made” 26 September 2023
Gayton and Gayton Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2036	Passed at referendum, 9 November 2023; “made” 20 November 2023
Stoke Ferry Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2036	Passed at referendum, 24 August 2023; “made” 29 August 2023
Watlington Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2036	Passed at referendum, 7 December 2023; “made” 13 December 2023

Emerging Neighbourhood Plans

	Current position
Downham Market Neighbourhood Plan	1 st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation October/ November 2021 – preparation subsequently stalled; Plan submission anticipated 2024
Grimston, Pott Row, Roydon and Congham Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2036	Examination commenced August 2023; anticipated to finish, spring 2024
Marshland St James Neighbourhood Plan	“Call for sites” December 2023; 1 st draft (Regulation 14) version Plan anticipated for publication, summer 2024
North Wootton Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2036	Submitted, 12 September 2023; followed by pre-examination (Regulation 16) consultation (finished 24 November 2023) Examination to commence early-2024 – appointment of examiner expected to be confirmed late January/ early February 2024
Old Hunstanton Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2036	Decision Notice issued 20 November 2023; due to go to referendum, 8 February 2024
Pentney Neighbourhood Plan	1 st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation March-May 2023; Plan submission anticipated 2024
Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan	Preliminary draft Plan subject to consultation with Environment Agency/ Historic England/ Natural England (March/ April 2023), regarding Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Habitat Regulations Assessment – further work needed before publication; 1 st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation anticipated early 2024
In addition, several other Parishes are designated Neighbourhood Areas, but progress with plan-making is unknown or at an early stage	Burnham Overy (designated 5 December 2023); Dersingham; Docking (designated 22 December 2023); Great Massingham; Ingoldisthorpe; Outwell; Shouldham; Syderstone; Tilney St Lawrence; Walpole; Walpole Cross Keys (review of 2017 Neighbourhood Plan); West Dereham

