

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 August 2024

COUNCILLOR BAL ANOTA - CABINET MEMBER FOR OPEN SPACE AND EVENTS

For the period 14th June to 13th August 2024

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Parking Matters

As you will see the sun is starting to do its job and there are good signs of recovery in the resort areas with strong trading to the end of July.

		April	May	June	July	
Burnham Market	2023	2631	2443	2571	3403	11048
	2024	1894	2478	2442	3178	9992
						-1056
Heacham	2023	3404	3647	4239	3836	15126
	2024	2338	3253	3506	4363	13460
						-1666
Hunstanton	2023	35143	34330	38475	37585	145533
	2024	25257	35179	32963	42429	135828
						-9705
Kings Lynn	2023	112900	115773	111492	122682	462847
	2024	111213	114776	112496	115177	453662
						-9185

Car Park Stays including Free Stays.

If the weather impact were ever doubted, yesterday (Mon 12th August) saw 2605 stays in Hunstanton, whereas the reciprocal Monday last year (14th August) saw just 1233 stays; so, I remain hopeful that if the warmer weather continues, we will go some way to recover the early-season impacts. Let's not forget the income raised from our car parks is a significant funding stream for the Council and this will continue to be factored in as a significant income when formulating our medium-term financial strategy. The income offsets the costs of providing and maintaining our car parks and machines in West Norfolk and funds things like our events programs within our Borough.

Pay and Display Machines

I can finally report that the new P&D machines have now been installed in the Hunstanton Resort Areas – this will make a great deal change to customer experience – it now gives the end user the ability to pay by card or apple pay etc. there have been some teething problems, but the team have worked very hard to minimise disruption – the next phase will be Kings Lynn and wider.

Grounds Maintenance and Public Open Space

Once again, this year five of our parks were awarded with the Green Flag of approval and are being recognised as some of the best examples in the country, the parks awarded are as follows,

- Boston Square Sensory Garden
- Heritage Gardens in Hunstanton
- Mintlyn Crematorium
- Tower Gardens
- The Walks

These sites provide vital green space for communities in West Norfolk to socialise, enjoy nature, for children to play safely and it provides important opportunities for park users to improve their physical and mental health.

This would not be possible if it was not for our hard-working teams and volunteers who ensure all public open spaces are not only well maintained but clean and safe, walking around, you can really see the level of dedication from the team to make West Norfolk look great. I would like to personally thank the whole team for all they do come rain or shine.



These pictures only highlight what it means to the team when their hard work is recognised. Well done all, they should be proud of themselves.

Mintlyn Crematorium

A new outdoor screen and speakers are due to be installed at the Mintlyn this so the service can be relayed outside in the undercover area for larger attendances, this a small part of the works to be carried out at the crematorium. Will keep the members posted on other developments, on other matters – the Leader and I visited the site

last month as a part of the Leaders meet and greet of all service areas, we both had a tour of the facility and spoke with staff and management at length about the great work they do and how we can assist more going forward.

Events – Kings Lynn

Kings Lynn has a jam-packed events programme most years and this year was no exception, as a new Cabinet Member for Events – to be honest my feet have not touched the ground – we must be the only Local Authority who put such a fantastic timetable of FREE events and entertainment focussed wholly on helping to drive and maintain footfall in our town centre.

Folk in the Town

For the seventh year running now the folk in the town did not disappoint with a wide range of music and dancers, Folk in the Town was a huge success over the weekend seeing the Tuesday Market Place filled with hundreds of people enjoying the music in the sunshine.

Hanse Festival

Once again Kings Lynn and West Norfolk celebrated its rich Hanseatic Heritage, King's Lynn was built on this ancient trading union and Hanse Day celebrates its businesses and its people with a day of fun on the historic riverfront. There was a Hanseatic historic walk lead by our town guilds, live music in king's Staithe Square including traditional Lithuanian dancing and Hanseatic themed events for all ages, my thanks goes out to all the event organizers who made this another success.



Tuesday Market Place – Olympics

On Saturday 27th and the Sunday 28th July and 3rd and 4th August - we had the Screen in TMP showing the Olympics opening weekend and alongside this the team erected a bespoke basketball court for all to enjoy – this was a new addition to our

inventory with a court feel floor and netting and proved to be one of our most popular participation activities, Basketball activities were delivered in partnership with the NCC youth workers and Alive West Norfolk also had some equipment for residents to use such as a bike and rowing machines followed by an afternoon of live entertainment.

Mods and Rockers

For the ninth year running we had our Mods and Rockers Motorbike and Scooter show on the Tuesday Market Place, live entertainment was provided by Scooted 'n' Booted, Dead Horse and The Soft Tone Needles and DJ sets from Sue Simper, this was a great backdrop for the fantastic bike, trikes and scooters on show.



Events - Hunstanton

Beat the Tide

Over 150 committed runners took part in the run doing either the 5 or 10K run along the coastline, thank goodness it was a sunny and calm day – Carolyn Flowerdrew from the Oasis conducted the warmup session before runners got ready to start. Crowds of people watched from the prom and were cheering on loved ones; this event was originally run by the Stroke Association many years ago – but its great to see it back and hopefully next year will be even bigger.



Battle of the Bands

The second annual Rock Festival returns to Hunstanton, with Free live music and entertainment, this competition was last won by Wicca a local band who featured on the Festival Too's lineup this year – this years winner will feature on the 40th Anniversary of Festival Too – Simon Rowe hosted the event and each band had 30 minutes on the stage to impress the judges to secure their place as the winner, this years winner was Dead Horse a four person band, they will now be performing at Festival Too's 40th Anniversary at the Tuesday Market Place. Thanks also goes out to all the team and Festival Too for their cooperation.

RNLI – Cheque – Beat The Tide

I was delighted to be asked to present a cheque with Roger Partridge for £750 on behalf of the Borough, the money raised come from the Beat the Tide event in Hunstanton and this was raised by the runners who to part in the event. The Hunstanton RNLI play such a vital role within our coastal communities – what can be a great day out and turn volatile very quickly, especially with the tide coming in. During our visit I was shown the Control Room, Ops room and other parts of the station by Mr Lenton and the team, who are all volunteers, and they take their own life in hand to save others – we were then shown around the lifeboat called Spirit of West Norfolk and hovercraft, named Hunstanton Flyer.



A full list of all our events can be found on the Borough Council Website or follow the links below for more details.

[Events | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/Events)

[Hunstanton events and activities | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/Hunstanton_events_and_activities)

I would like to thank all the officers, staff teams involved in these events, from the organisers to the clean-up teams – these events would not be possible without your hard work and dedication to promoting West Norfolk.

Below are some pictures from recent events and the way the teams work to ensure businesses, and the town have no disruptions during the event season.

Before.....



After.....



Tuesday Market Place – Ready for Business just a few hours after the event.

Other Portfolio Matters

Our public open space team have been busy again, creating some impressive displays for the Sandringham Flower Show this year. 🌿 🌸

Since 2013 staff from our grounds central team have designed displays, supplied plants and created floral beds at the Royal Marquee, around the bandstand, the stage area of the Horticultural Talks Marquee, entrances of the Royal Marquee and two main pedestrian visitor gates.

All the plants have been grown in the borough council nursery that grows 70,000 plants for our area every year.

The plants will be collected and taken back to the borough council nursery after the show, where they can be tended and reallocated across West Norfolk.





2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Grimston Cricket Club – Visit
MAG001 – WC
Resort Services Visit – Leader
Tour of AWN Facilities

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

June 2024

13th – Portfolio Meeting – MC/DM
17th – Special Council Meeting – TH
18th – Norfolk Parking Partnership – County Hall
19th – Guildhall Site Visit
19th – Cabinet Briefing - GH
20th - CPT Meeting – Teams
20th – MAG001 – Teams
26th – Cabinet Focus Group - CC
26th – Members Briefings – Teams
26th – Portfolio Meeting – MH
27th - Peer Review Q/A – CC
27th – Council – TH

July 2024

1st – Planning Committee – TH
1st – Cabinet Sifting – LO
2nd – Portfolio Matters – Leaders Office
3rd – Mintlyn Site Visit – Leader
7th – RNLI – Site Visit – Hunstanton
8th – Cabinet Meeting – CC

10th – Hunstanton Events Meeting – Hunstanton – DM/RP

11th – Pride Event Meeting – MC/AB/JR

11th – Philip Eke – Visit West Norfolk Meeting – PL

12th – Portfolio Meeting – MC/DM

12th – Portfolio Meeting – MH

15th – Green Flag – The Walks

18th – Cabinet Briefings

18th – Tour of the Depot KL

23rd – Ward Issues – MD

26th – Sibelco Site Visit – ZO/MD

26th – Kings Lynn Festival - GH

29th – Planning Committee – TH

30th – Cabinet Away Day – CC

30th – Cabinet – CC

August 2024

4th – Battle of the Bands - Hunstanton

6th – CPT Meeting – MC/JR

6th – Portfolio Meeting – MC

11th – Mods and Rockers – TMP

12th – Group Meeting – KR

13th – Downham Market Meeting – TC