

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

17 October 2024

COUNCILLOR BAL ANOTA - CABINET MEMBER FOR OPEN SPACE AND EVENTS

For the period 13th August 2024 to 17th October 2024

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Parking Matters

I have asked officers to add some more detail to the car park usages figures I routinely report. The additional monthly, and cumulative variances demonstrate quite clearly the impact of weather on the resort area stays. Whilst there was good recovery from the poorer weather early in the season, that did not continue into September, when we saw a return to more unsettled weather.

I am again pleased to see that King's Lynn remains within 1.6% of last year, this confirms my belief when visiting the town centre that, unlike many others, King's Lynn continues to be a well-supported destination for locals and visitors which will continue to thrive as our planned investments come to fruition.

		April	May	June	July	August	September		
Burnham Market	2023	2631	2443	2571	3403	4992	2940		18980
	2024	1894	2478	2442	3178	5126	2656		17774
	Monthly Variance	72%	101%	95%	93%	103%	90%		-1206 93.6%
	Cumulative Variance	72%	86%	89%	90%	94%	94%		
Heacham	2023	3404	3647	4239	3836	5736	4200		25062
	2024	2338	3253	3506	4363	5934	2971		22365
	Monthly Variance	69%	89%	83%	114%	103%	71%		-2697 89.2%
	Cumulative Variance	69%	79%	81%	89%	93%	89%		
Hunstanton	2023	35143	34330	38475	37585	62436	36041		244010
	2024	25257	35179	32963	42429	70121	26409		232358
	Monthly Variance	72%	102%	86%	113%	112%	73%		-11652 95.2%
	Cumulative Variance	72%	87%	87%	93%	99%	95%		
Kings Lynn	2023	112900	115773	111492	122682	119448	111029		693324
	2024	111213	114776	112496	115576	118752	109487		682300
	Monthly Variance	99%	99%	101%	94%	99%	99%		-11024 98.4%
	Cumulative Variance	99%	99%	100%	98%	98%	98%		

Pay and Display Machines

I can report that there is only one new machine left to be installed in the Central Car park in Hunstanton, as always, power the obstacle has delayed the process and where new machines have been installed the old ones have been removed once the testing has been completed. New machines are

working well, with customers enjoying the additional payment method via Credit Card/Apple-Google Pay. With the new machines receipts on card payments are now optional, and customer has to confirm if they would like one, this will hopefully prevent the littering issue we encountered in Hunstanton when people either didn't realise or just left their receipts.

Grounds Maintenance and Public Open Space

West Norfolk won big at the annual Anglia in Bloom awards 2024.

This is an amazing result and recognition of the fantastic teams who look after our public open spaces. Council staff care passionately about our parks and green spaces so these are well deserved wins for them but there are also many volunteers and community groups that make a real difference in West Norfolk, and they deserve recognition too.

“I was particularly pleased to see the additional win for the Walks fountain in Britain in Bloom for the special 60th anniversary feature. The floral display created by our team really adds colour to that part of the park. I would like to thank our staff and many others who make west Norfolk such a great place to live.”

The full list of west Norfolk results is below:

Full face-to-face judging

- Coastal - Hunstanton - Gold and CATEGORY WINNER
- Town - Downham Market - Gold

Kings Lynn virtual entries

- Public Park - The Walks - Gold and CATEGORY WINNER
- Public Park - Tower Gardens - Silver Gilt
- Special 60th Anniversary Feature for Britain in Bloom - The Walks Fountain awarded Gold and JOINT CATEGORY WINNER with Huntingdon
- Care Home/ Nursing Home - Goodwins Hall - Gold and CATEGORY WINNER
- Cemeteries/Crematoria/graveyards and burial grounds - Mintlyn Crem - Silver and CATEGORY WINNER
- Churchyards - The Minster - Silver Gilt
- Pub/Restaurant/Hotel - The Wennis - Silver Gilt
- Nature Conservation Area - Salters Sanctuary (Gaywood Valley Conservation Group) - Silver

South Wootton in Bloom virtual entry

- Public Park - Wootton Park - Gold

- Special Lifetime Achievement Award for Nolan Mills



Downham Market

Refurbishment of Downham Market public toilets - Information about forthcoming works:

Work is due to start on 30 September on a Borough Council project to improve the toilet facilities in Downham Market town centre.

The new toilets will include an accessible toilet and two self-contained unisex toilets with one having a baby-changing facility added.

It was originally hoped that work would be completed in October but the

challenges of delivering the project on a very small site in a busy location and the wish to make sure the Christmas Lights switch-on is not affected mean it will now start later and take longer.

Important dates and activities

Monday 30 September: the Town Hall car park will be closed for one day to allow deliveries for construction work to begin.

Fencing will be put up around the site area but during the works the car park will be unaffected. A small welfare unit for construction workers will be put up outside the Town Hall.

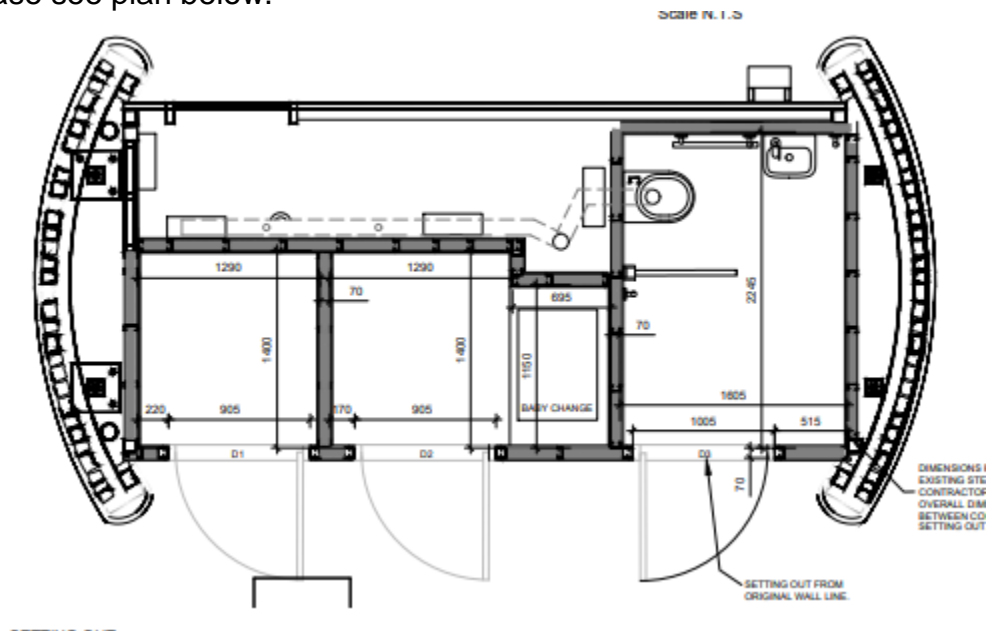
Two existing traders in the car park will temporarily move closer to the shops during the works.

Thursday 21 November: the Town Hall car park will be closed for one day and the construction welfare unit will be removed to maximise space available in the car park for the Christmas Lights switch on.

Monday 25 November: the Town Hall car park will be closed for one day to put back the welfare unit and allow some more deliveries.

The work is due to finish in early 2025.

Please see plan below.



Events – Kings Lynn

Classic Car Day

This well-established car event had been fully-booked for months and over 225 vintage vehicles of all makes and ages were on display, from old Fords to the American classics. Thankfully it was a nice sunny day which really brought out the crowds to this great event.



Heritage Day 2024



Soap Box Derby

The return of the Hunstanton Soap Box Derby, more than 58 unique karts were on display, Simon Rowe, from Radio West Norfolk, interviewed the teams on The Green before the race. Racing started at 11:15am, 58 teams from across the country took to the circuit for their first run of the course which sets off near the town hall, up on Greevegate, hops over a new improved ramp and heads down towards the finish line, overlooking the sea, on Beach Terrace Road. The second run started around 2pm, but during the interval we had some precipitation which only added to the fun.

The street circuit racing and live music was enjoyed by thousands of people in the town, I was especially pleased to see the event brought the biggest crowd ever to Hunstanton and some I talked to travelled as far as Birmingham, Kent and Wales. This makes all the hard work and dedication from our borough council teams and many volunteers worth it. I enjoyed watching all the action on our street circuit, the rain that made the track slippery and wet for the second run but didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the spectators or the racing team's spirits, it only made our track faster and more challenging.

Team Apex Legend from Stoke Ferry completed the circuit in the fastest time of 30 seconds. The veteran's group (aged 50+) was won by Nutty's Speed Shop from Hinckley in Leicestershire, they completed the course in 31 seconds. Ram Racing from Holbeach won the under 16's category (aged 13-15) with a time of 43 seconds and Team Devil Juniors, from Clacton-on-sea in Essex, won the under 13's category racing down the track in 59 seconds.

The Concours d'Elegance award for the best looking/most outstanding kart, was awarded to Hunstanton Fire Station







But I must mention the Team and volunteers after the event, as soon as the event was over the hard work began, to ensure all the straw bails were removed and put on the side for residents to take home for free, make sure all debris was cleaned from the streets and event areas and the metal fencing was removed.



Whilst it's time to reflect on an incredibly busy event season, I would like to personally thank from all Members of the Council, our officers, event teams, contractors and partners for delivering, we must not forget the annual Fawkes in the Walks fireworks scheduled for Friday 1st November, there's more information on the council website.

These events not only attract visitors but help to maintain footfall in our town centres and whilst the unpredictable weather this year has hampered some of these activities, the determination of our staff and partners has always shined through. These events not only meet our core objectives for health and well-being but wider provide fun filled activities and days out for free for families on low incomes, and lets face facts here, we have all seen a increase in costs to day-to-day life, so if we can provide free events during the summer for all age

group this can only be a good thing. Also, it's a great asset for local business with secondary spends in and around the towns and villages. Now Looking at how we can make this bigger and better than ever next season. All events this season have been well received by visitors and businesses within the Borough

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Portfolio Meetings planned.
Fawkes in the Walks 1st Nov
Sebelco Liaison Meeting
ICCM Cheque Presentation

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

August 2024

13th – MD Ward Matters –
14th – Ward Matters – Congham
14th – Grimston Cricket Club Visit –
15th – David Flux – Ward Matters
20th – Licensing Appeals Board – TH
20th – Cabinet Sifting – LO
22nd – Resort Services Visit – MC AB DM
28th – S Planning Committee – Hopkins
29th – Pre-Council Meeting
29th – Full Council
30th – Lynn Sport AWN Tour

September 2024

Planning Committee – TH
5th – Portfolio Meeting – MC DM
12th – MAG001 – Teams
13th – Leziate PC
16th – Group Meeting
17th – Norfolk Parking Partnership – NCC
17th – Cabinet – CC
27th – Oliver Judges – Meeting
27th – Portfolio Meeting – MC CD

October 2024

2nd – Downham Market Memorial Field Meeting – DM
2nd – Portfolio Meeting – MC MD
7th – Planning Committee – TH
14th – Meetings KC