

NNDC Official complaint.

In 2019 North Norfolk District Council informed us all of their intention to work closer with and to listen to Parish Councils.

This is our experience.

Housing - empty homes .. no reply to status of council tax .. empty homes left in a state which is detrimental to the quality of life of neighbours. Section 215 put on a property with conditions, 36 Beck Close. Owner did part of the work, NNDC removed the section 215 without the work being completed.

No answer as to the state of the land at 39 Beck Close with scrap cars causing concern to the quality of life of the neighbouring properties.

Several properties and land in Weybourne, especially Station Road and Beck Close are in a condition to cause distress to neighbours and have an adverse effect on the area.

Gardens filled with parts of cars, old mattresses and other waste. Overgrown empty homes. The exact things section 215 was introduced to deal with. Not one officer from NNDC has agreed to meet with the parish council, despite numerous requests to do so.

The land on Station Road could easily be made the subject of ss76-79 of the Building Act as a neglected site. It is commercial land and dangerous causing a nuisance to neighbours and pedestrians. Why is this land not subject to ss79-82 of the Environmental Protection Act for abatement of prohibition of nuisance?

And more especially why will NNDC not agree to meet the Parish Council to discuss these matters?

Requests for information regarding the number of EHMO's enforced over the past 10 years.

Requests ignored and no response sent. Information requested regarding the councils policy on EHMO's, ignored. Reported the policy being years out of date, ignored. No response from NNDC. Information passed to NNDC regarding empty properties ignored. One property has been lived in for approximately 7 of the past 40 years. Two other properties have made false declarations as to their council tax status. Both reported, both ignored.

Information regarding land being used for commercial purposes , ignored.

What does it take to actually get a response from NNDC?

Planning. Letter sent from the parish council regarding the length of time permitted to respond to the local plan. Insufficient response given. We requested information to enable us to post a response, the information was never given. We were told to put in FOI requests. These would not have been answered in time for us to properly prepare responses. NNDC sent a planning officer to our parish council meeting. He provided false information and was unable to respond to many questions regarding a document he was partly responsible for writing. When we complained to NNDC it was left to Mr Ashwell to respond. Again a totally inadequate response which covered none of our concerns. A follow up was never answered. This should never have been answered by the officer to which the complaint was relevant.

NNDC declared a climate emergency in 2019. As a parish we have taken this seriously and have been making attempts to promote a better environment for us all. Part of this has been to protect our dark skies. NNDC have themselves not just promoted but extolled the virtues of the dark skies over our parish. As part of this we have implemented a policy for outdoor lighting and roof lights. Each time planning disagrees and allows the roof lights. How are we supposed to be protecting our precious birds and wildlife without the help of planning ?

As Weybourne has become a Mecca for holiday homes and second homes the village is changing beyond recognition. Each home purchased now seems to be followed up by a planning application for an extension. Many of these extensions are out of character with the village and over the top in size. With each extension there is a loss of biodiversity. The bigger the house the more cars travelling to the village. How does this tie in with your “climate emergency” ? Just 3 extensions can be the same footprint as a new build. In the past few years we have seen too many gardens covered with tarmac or shingle to provide parking for these enlarged homes. More habitat lost.

Just last year permission was granted for a property which has changed the skyline of Weybourne and the road it is on. NNDC commented that it was not a substantial extension. It was a third of the footprint. What actually constitutes substantial? More hedgerow destroyed, more lights harming our skies more biodiversity lost.

At times we are lucky enough to be able to see the Northern lights from our beaches. Indeed NNDC have mentioned this in their promotion of the area. So why aren't you doing all you can to protect our dark skies?

We are in an AONB. Your policy -

The impact of individual proposals, and their cumulative effect, on the **Norfolk Coast AONB, The Broads** and their settings, will be carefully assessed. Development will be permitted where it;

- is appropriate to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area or is desirable for the understanding and enjoyment of the area;
- does not detract from the special qualities of the Norfolk Coast AONB or The Broads; and
- seeks to facilitate delivery of the Norfolk Coast AONB management plan objectives.

Opportunities for remediation and improvement of damaged landscapes will be taken as they arise.

Proposals that have an adverse effect will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that they cannot be located on alternative sites that would cause less harm and the benefits of the development clearly outweigh any adverse impacts.

Development proposals that would be significantly detrimental to the special qualities of the Norfolk Coast AONB or The Broads and their settings will not be permitted.

Allowing over development of properties is having a detrimental effect on the biodiversity of this AONB. Allowing additional roof lights will have a detrimental effect on our dark skies.

Artificial lights are impacting habitats for nocturnal wildlife, including protected species in Britain like barn owls, bats and hedgehogs. Light spill affects migratory corridors and protecting the night-sky will help these already endangered species by maintaining their natural environments. Causing harm to our SSSI.

Part of our village is within a conservation area. The council have the ability to prevent further harm to the environment, over development and changes to building that do nothing to retain the character of our village.

This is your policy-

“Development proposals, including alterations and extensions, should preserve or enhance the character and appearance of designated assets (xxix), other important historic buildings, structures, monuments and landscapes (xxx), and their settings through high quality, sensitive

design. Development that would have an adverse impact on their special historic or architectural interest will not be permitted”.

When will NNDC be happy ? When the whole of the countryside is built on? When the social and environmental fabric of each and every town and village in North Norfolk is damaged beyond repair?

The local plan. Why ask for the opinions of residents and parish councils then take no notice of what they have to say? It's pointless telling us our views are important, and then ignoring us.

Beach .. Over a year to get a sign for beach safety and nothing installed at the beach entrance location. The very sign we said was inadequate!

Toilets .. years of asking for facilities to prevent the environmental hazard of human faeces on the beach and surrounding area. Eco loo not fit for purpose. Additional toilet added, closed far too often. NNDC itself commissioned a report into public conveniences. It said Weybourne needed 5. Probably overkill, but it shows the complete lack of adequate facilities. Do you really think the industrial looking mini shipping container is an enhancement to the beach area? Cromer Pier is not the only beach tourist attraction in North Norfolk.

The revetment; we were invited to a meeting on site to discuss the proposals by NNDC to move this. Each year we have been told this would be done. This year we were told this is no longer a revetment but a 'palisade' and does not need replacing. This was NEVER requested by the parish council but has wasted hours of our time if it's now not a project you are continuing with. Why waste our time ?

Bins. The often overflowing bins are an attraction to rats and other vermin. Surely on beach sites closable bins with separation for landfill and recycling should be standard? Any poison put down to eradicate the vermin should not pose a further hazard to our birds and wildlife eating the corpses.

Weybourne was appointed as the start / finish of the Deep History Path. Discussions took place over the level of facilities here and offered to help with a vision to attract visitors. This just stopped and no further dialogue took place.

We have asked NNDC on several occasions for their risk assessment for the Beach Lane car park, with particular reference to the dangers of abandoned heavy vehicles. No response has been forthcoming.

We have on many occasions brought to the attention of NNDC the blight of ABANDONED boats and tractors. Responses have been extremely slow with often months before a response. Twice this response has been to explain to us that the boats are in use are working boats a local and historical trade. At no point have we ever mentioned working boats or equipment, other than oil leaks, in fact we have been clear in stating we welcome the working fisherman. Maybe someone could explain why the fisherman have been told that the parish council are against having boats on the beach? One of the boats is quite clearly not seaworthy yet NNDC responded that it was a working boat. Impossible, it's not even registered.

Camper vans on Beach Lane car park. One of the reasons for the toilets being out of order so often is campers emptying their waste. Why not use this as an opportunity and invest in waste disposal for these and charge camper vans to use a set number of spaces? Overnight charging would be easy using ANPR technology to charge for vehicles using the car park. You're not going to stop them.

