

District Councillors Report for Stoke Holy Cross AGM

The Major event affecting The Council this year has been the closure of South Norfolk House and the removal to Horizon House on the Broadland Business Park . The new office will be occupied jointly with Broadland District Council. South Norfolk House is currently for sale. A number of bids have been received for its purchase. These fall into two groups: those that wish to demolish the building and develop housing on the land and those that wish to retain the building to use for community purposes. At an extraordinary council meeting it was decided to defer a decision for ninety days in order for the latter proposers time to find the necessary funding.

In the interim the council is operating at the current Broadland Council offices at Thorpe Lodge. It is anticipated that the new office at Horizon House will be open for use in May, once the necessary enabling works have been completed. Considerable financial savings are expected to be made.

Joint working of back office staff with Broadland Council have been completed with many Policies being developed jointly with both Councils. However The Councils remain separate with regard to their Statutory functions.

The Council has renewed its Public Space Protection Orders, These relate to such issues as the exclusion of dogs from childrens play areas, etc.

There has been a considerable increase in the numbers of homeless in the District due to the current national financial situation. The Council now has a Statutory duty to house such people. This is posing a considerable financial burden on The Council.

The Village Cluster element of The Greater Norwich Development Plan has been out to consultation. It will be many months, before the Document is ready for submission for Government approval.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is working its way through Parliament. It is a lengthy document and will involve Local Planning Authorities in housing allocation and design. It also includes a Devolution proposal for Norfolk County Council. The District Council is opposed to this.

Nigel Legg