

Report from Richard Kershaw – NNDC – May 2020

Report on NNDC's actions since Covid 19 Pandemic declared.

Since the last meeting we have moved into lockdown and I have to say that the Officers at NNDC have been working extremely hard and effectively to try and support the community. During this time resilience centres have been set up to help people in need get food, medicines and offer advice. These centres have worked very well and have had good feedback from the community.

Officers have paid out £47.55m in Small business Grants as of today equating to 87% of identified businesses, 4322 in total. We are continuing to process claims and proactively contact businesses who have not submitted claims to date.

Alok Sharma informed the council that there would be an extra 5% funding available, approx £3.3m, to be awarded to businesses that fell through the cracks on the first round of payments. We have been working to identify these businesses. However the fund is discretionary and we are still waiting clarification from the Minister as to what businesses are to be included so we cannot progress until clarification is given.

We are working on a recovery plan for North Norfolk and will lobby hard for Central Government to make up any shortfalls. Income from Car Parking, Splash, Leisure Centres and the Pier Theatre have ceased and there are extra expenses being incurred to support people in need.

Today a 60 page document has been released by the Government purportedly detailing the roadmap to the end of lockdown but sad to say it is very light on details. Once we have more details we will be able to make decisions about access to car parks and open spaces etc.

Cabinet, Planning and Licensing continue to hold Public meetings via Zoom and are being live streamed on the council's Youtube channel. Other meetings are continuing via Zoom on a daily basis.

If you have any questions, issues with planning etc please get in touch with me at Richard.kershaw@north-norfolk.gov.uk or call 07836 224555.

I hope you are all well and continue to be so.

Best wishes,

Cllr Richard Kershaw.