

3765. PETITIONS

No petitions to the Council had been received.

3765.1 COMMUNITY NATURE RECOVERY - MOTION SUBMITTED BY CLLR T GRAHAM

Cllr T Graham moved the following motion:

“This Council notes:

Engagement with nature and the natural environment provides mental health benefits and improvements in general wellbeing.

The Government has agreed to build back nature in their 25 Environment Plan 2018 which includes developing Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Norfolk County Council has been appointed as a responsible authority for preparing such a Strategy.

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council developed a nature recovery community model which has the support of Natural England. It has been adopted by nearby parishes and is under consideration by Norfolk County Council for inclusion within their overall Strategy.

This Council resolves to:

Be at the forefront of considering community focused nature recovery initiatives and support Norfolk County Council in delivery of their Local Nature Recovery Strategy, in particular in progressing the community element.

Encourage communities to identify opportunities for nature recovery and support them to take action through implementing the Harleston community model throughout the District.

The model is based on a bottom-up concept of control and delivery by the community with the encouragement of the local councils. Responsibility for design and delivery will reside with the parishes themselves. This Council will provide support to Parish Councils where it is considered appropriate. It would not have any direct role in delivery of the local designs. In particular, this will involve the Council:

- publicly endorsing the model;
- encouraging adoption by the Parish Councils, as the closest level of council to the community;
- supporting the Parish Councils in delivery of their own models; and
- assigning responsibility to an appropriate portfolio holder.”

In seconding the proposals, Cllr K Kiddie emphasised the importance of involving the local community in protecting and enhancing the environment and explained that the proposal was a leading example of giving control back to the local community, with support from the Council.

Cllr Fuller agreed with the sentiments expressed by Cllr Kiddie and congratulated Cllr Graham for bringing this motion to the Council. He advised the meeting that he was Chairman of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Members' Group, which had been invited to nominate a person to represent all the Norfolk

planning authorities as a champion for environmental matters and it was his intention to nominate Cllr Graham for this role.

Cllr Brown informed the meeting that whilst he supported the intentions behind the motion he questioned if the resolution was targeted enough and suggested that the model might not be appropriate for all sizes of parish.

He suggested that the proposal might be better developed if it was considered by a committee who would look at it in more detail and produce an Action Plan for working with the parishes.

In response, Cllr Graham emphasised that the proposal was for a locally driven approach as each community knew what worked best for their community.

In answer to a query from Cllr G Blundell, Cllr Graham advised the meeting that details of the Harleston Community model could be found on the Nature Recovery in Harleston website.

With 37 votes in favour and 2 abstentions, it was

RESOLVED

1. To note that:

Engagement with nature and the natural environment provides mental health benefits and improvements in general wellbeing.

The Government has agreed to build back nature in their 25 Environment Plan 2018 which includes developing Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Norfolk County Council has been appointed as a responsible authority for preparing such a Strategy.

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council developed a nature recovery community model which has the support of Natural England. It has been adopted by nearby parishes and is under consideration by Norfolk County Council for inclusion within their overall Strategy.

2. To

Be at the forefront of considering community focused nature recovery initiatives and support Norfolk County Council in delivery of their Local Nature Recovery Strategy, in particular in progressing the community element.

Encourage communities to identify opportunities for nature recovery and support them to take action through implementing the Harleston community model throughout the District.

The model is based on a bottom-up concept of control and delivery by the community with the encouragement of the local councils.

Responsibility for design and delivery will reside with the parishes themselves. This Council will provide support to Parish Councils where it is considered appropriate. It would not have any direct role in delivery of the local designs. In particular, this will involve the Council:

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- encouraging adoption by the Parish Councils, as the closest level of council to the community;
- supporting the Parish Councils in delivery of their own models; and assigning responsibility to an appropriate portfolio holder.

3766. PREPARATION NOT PANIC: ACTIVE COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION OF EMERGENCY PREPARATION AND RESPONSE - MOTION SUBMITTED BY CLLR C MCCONNELL

The following motion was moved by Cllr C McConnell, seconded by Cllr S Nuri-Nixon.

“This Council notes that:

The experiences of Covid, floods and wildfire have taught us the need to prepare for the unexpected.

Norfolk Resilience Forum (an assembly of experts of Category 1 and 2 Responders, representatives from voluntary/faith sector and armed forces) have produced excellent online advice and information around household response to emergencies.

Many householders are unaware of the above and are unprepared: unsure of how to be ready to respond to an emergency; how to illicit help and whom to contact during and after the event.

There is a need to lessen the impact at an individual and community level by calmly communicating emergency preparation strategies and robust coping processes.

This Council believes that, with the potential of further flooding and unexpected events, we should be providing appropriate support to our residents.

This Council resolves to:

1. Actively communicate and promote at a household level the expert emergency advice of the Norfolk Resilience Forum.