

North Norfolk Big Society Fund

Voluntary and community organisations within North Norfolk may apply for Big Society Fund grants to support their projects. Full information including contact details are given in the Fund's page on the District Council website <http://bit.ly/cllr-fitzpatrick-BSF>. It is worth making contact at an early stage to discuss your application. The officers are very happy to give help and advice with any application.

Awards from the September Panel were:

- Swafield Village Hall, £2,923.20 towards the connection of the hall to the mains sewage system.
- Binham Memorial Hall, £6,756.75 to buy kitchen equipment to enable larger scale catering, including a commercial size dishwasher, hot food cupboard and stainless-steel preparation tables.
- Salthouse Village Hall, £12,150 to renovate the toilet and kitchen areas of the hall.
- Paston Playground Project, £15,000 towards the purchase of playground equipment.

Applications to go to the 4th December 2017 Big Society Fund Grant Panel will need to be submitted by the 6th November 2017.

Scam Alert

Householders are being advised to beware of rogue traders who are offering roof-insulation checks and claiming it is all part of a free government scheme.

North Norfolk District Council has been contacted by residents checking the validity of claims made by these doorstep canvassers. One elderly gentleman reported that he had been told it was a free government incentive being rolled out by local councils.

However, neither North Norfolk District Council nor Norfolk County Council have any ties to these tradesmen and are not involved with any such schemes.

The callers try to make an appointment to climb on to the roof in order to check the health of tiles and insulation. But this is a well-known scam by rogue traders who target vulnerable residents and then try to con them out of large sums of money for unnecessary work. Sometimes, these workmen will deliberately cause damage on the roof when they inspect it, and then pressure the householder to pay for it to be repaired.

Improved Accessible Lavatory and Parking Facilities, Wells

NNDC Cabinet at its meeting on 30th October 2017 has decided to provide a grant to the Wells Maltings Trust for the provision of fully accessible Changing Places facility within the Maltings development. This facility is aimed at visitors to the town with special care needs. I was also decided that the District Council consults with local stakeholders on a proposal for the Staithe Street Car Park in Wells to be designated for use by Blue Badge users only.

Highfield Road Car Park, Fakenham

At the 30th October meeting, Cabinet also agreed to retain the Highfield Road car park in Fakenham as a public car park owned and operated by the District Council.

Fakenham Community Fridge

North Norfolk's first 'Community Fridge' was opened for business on 9th November 2017.

The fridge is at First Focus in Oak Street, Fakenham. It is supported by a host of organisations including North Norfolk District Council, Recycle for Norfolk, the environmental charity Hubbub UK and Sainsbury's plc, the Fakenham Community Fridge is part of a growing effort to tackle food waste.

The fridge will be open four half days in the week to enable residents and businesses to share surplus food for free. Anyone can help themselves to free quality food that would otherwise have been wasted. First Focus is calling on the support of all food businesses in Fakenham to donate surplus food still within its 'use by' date in to the Community Fridge where local people can help themselves to good quality free food.

Food waste is a big issue in the UK. The average family throws away £700 worth of food every year and at the same time 4 million people in the UK are living in food poverty. Most food waste in the UK (4.1 million tonnes or 61%) is avoidable and could have been eaten had it been better managed.

Councillor Vincent FitzPatrick

Priory Ward

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk>