

**District Councillor's Report
March 2018**

As, no doubt, you have read in the press, NNDC has a new Leader. Cllr John Lee was elected at Full Council on 21st February. For those of you who have not yet met John, he is Conservative Councillor for Suffield Park Ward – just next door, and a Cromer Fisherman – a direct descendent to Henry Blogg.

He has already made some changes to his Cabinet by reducing it back down to seven members and appointing one new Member who we are delighted to welcome here tonight. Cllr Hilary Cox, in addition to her IFCA position, has been appointed to take over my old portfolios of Coastal Management and Environmental Services. I can assure you they can not be in better hands.

At the same meeting, the budget was approved and this year, for the first time in seven years, Members approved unanimously, a small increase of 3.8% in their part of Council Tax.

The severe weather of last week has presented many challenges. Waste collections are still in a catch up situation and I hope residents have been able to keep updated by the many media announcements and information on the Council's website. I understand from officers they were expecting to clear the backlog in the first three days of this month , but it will take time to get back to normal. In any case residents are asked to leave all bins out so they may be collected as the trucks arrive.

There have been several further cliff falls all along the coast. The combination of high north easterly winds and heavy precipitation is the "perfect storm" to cause slump of cliffs, and I am sure there is more to come. Officers have had to lock the gate to the Vale Road beach access whilst they monitor a deep crack that has opened up in the car park area. There is pedestrian access, but until the ground conditions are drier there will be no access for vehicles. It is sad to see all the Marine life washed up on our beaches, but it seems nature is taking it's course and the gulls think it is Christmas and are doing a great job clearing it all up for us.

You may have noticed that you will now be able to pay for your car parking using a mobile phone app.

I am currently standing in as Leader of the Independent Group as our Leader is on annual leave. With another member joining us after Christmas and the LibDems winning the Worstead Bi-election, the political balance on Council Committees has been thrown into disarray and it is falling to me to juggle our eight Independents. Thankfully they are all very supportive and good natured, so whilst it is a lot of extra work, I shall get through it without having a nervous breakdown.

I really enjoyed the Overstrand Pantomime ten days ago and hope that attendance was not affected too badly by the weather. It was also very interesting to observe their planning Committee and a great help to me in my position of Chairman of the Development Committee.

One extra complaint that came last week about our Environmental Health Department being unable to recommend contractors to remove some dumped chemical containers. I regret this is this case due to procurement regulations.

No further complaints or queries

**Cllr Angie Fitch-Tillett
Poppyland Ward, NNDC**