

Annual Report for Hemsby Annual Parish Meeting / Annual Parish Council Meeting 16th May 2022

My sincere apologies for not being able to make tonight's meeting. I am busy attending a statutory meeting at the town hall as part of my responsibilities as a borough councillor. I am hoping there will be fewer clashes in timetables this year and therefore hope to see you more often.

However, on the really important issues, like the multi million pound rock berm project, begun locally by Save Hemsby Coastline (of which I am a founding trustee) and managed for the borough via Coastal Partnership East (CPE), and the recent Pine Developments application to alter the status of the 6 acre Leisure Development at Beach Road for all year round occupation, we have worked together and achieved good results for the village.

Despite frustrations with the relentless coastal erosion this winter, I am pleased to have made a significant financial contribution to the lifeboat from my GYBC ward budget, along with my fellow ward councillor James Bensly.

Changes in local representation also mean that I will be becoming much more involved in coastal issues, as I have been appointed to the Coastal Partnership East Board and to the Local Government Association – Coastal Matters Board and the Norfolk Coastal Partnership Board. Previously, whilst I have been involved with some of these, it was as a Save Hemsby Coastline Trustee. These are in addition to my existing appointments to the Broads Internal Drainage Board that I attended only this morning at Hickling and the Youth Advisory Board meeting next week.

This leads me on to mention the new mayor, Graham Plant who is a familiar, approachable, able and experienced borough and county councillor. He has pledged to support Young People during his term and I will be discussing my vision for a community tech workshop focussed on stimulating the imagination, skills and creativity of young people. I am currently organising a visit a site in Norwich, that is our nearest neighbour and a shining example of how this can benefit our communities.

Concurrent Function Grants – Hemsby Parish Council will have been asked about these by GYBC. The fact is that these grants are a very efficient way for the borough council to provide services via the parishes and they have majority support. It is true that there has been some confused reports in the press and calls to end them, but there are no such plans, quite the reverse. However, GYBC needs as much information as possible to help the parishes keep these grants and to show all the good work that is achieved. Please help GYBC to help you by supporting this if you have not already done so.

The Rock Berm project has been moved forward as far as is possible, until outstanding consultees respond with their replies (includes the Maritime Management Organisation (MMO) and Natural England I believe). The recent Development Control Committee decision on this, delegates to the Head of Planning, the power to approve the planning application – subject to favourable responses being received from the above. This allows the fundraising process to start sooner and brings the prospect of the work starting - further forward. I hope to meet with Save Hemsby Coastline, along with a CPE engaged fundraiser and a local, professional fundraiser later this week.

It is good to see Wild Flowers Returning to Hemsby – primroses & cowslips have been seen around the village. Hopefully, the mowing regimes will favour their further propagation into more shady spots on our roadsides and ditches.

Noel

Noel Galer

Councillor - East Flegg Ward

Email: cllr.noel.galer@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Telephone: 07775 593489



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LGC Awards winner for Driving Growth