

NDP Report for February 2018

- Natural England issued their (long-awaited) major report on the State of the North Norfolk Coast last week. This provided a baseline for checking our own (equally long-awaited) NDP Report on Environment, Landscape and Biodiversity.
- *With the exception of visitor numbers*, there is generally good agreement between the two and both highlight the pressures on the environment – although the NE report is focused on the Protected Sites. We do need to get to the bottom of differences in visitor numbers because they are significant.
- The NDP report has now been issued in draft and circulated to the Parish Council. This represents a major piece of work which as well as informing policy also provides the basis for the Strategic Environmental Assessment which is required to demonstrate that the NDP deals effectively with environmental issues (by mitigating adverse effects) and other sustainability impacts.
- During the month we had a very useful meeting with Old Hunstanton NDP Team and agreed some common ground. There was also a very helpful suggestion from their Chair, David McCleod, that the two parishes should take a more active approach to collaborating in order to protect our mutual interests.
- Some people are getting frustrated about the length of time it is taking to get the Plan finished. It is however a major undertaking – not least because we have had very limited consultancy support and - although Holme is a small parish, it is very complex. Furthermore, there is little point in producing a plan that will be ineffective or needs updating very quickly (as in Brancaster). We have therefore been very thorough in our approach to producing the *Evidence Base*.
- The Environment Report is the last of the major evidence reports that we have had to produce and we are continuing to finalise the writing up with a view to getting a revised draft out as quickly as possible.
- Meanwhile the Local Plan Consultations are expected to start imminently. Richard High, our NDP Planning Consultant is concerned that the BC is persisting with the proposal to allow development outside boundaries in “relevant settlements”. The NDP has to be consistent with upper tier planning policy so it will be advantageous to see this document – and to respond to the consultation before we finalise our own Plan.