Broadland District Councillors Report for Brundall Parish Council Meeting – 27 March 2023

The BDC Main Council meeting on the 23 February debated the council budget for 2023/24. Cllr Davis and Cllr Laming submitted an amendment to the budget to support the Warm Homes Programme by allocating £2m funds from reserves to finance the additional retrofitting of homes to improve their energy efficiency. The amendment was lost.

BDC submitted a response to the consultation on a revised National Planning Policy Framework which closed on 2 March. As your ward councillors we made our individual submissions which focussed on making housing targets advisory; utilising up to date housing projections; increasing the availability of affordable housing; retrofitting existing buildings; an emphasis on housing for older people; developers keep to approved plans; brownfield first developments; the protection of Best and Most Versatile land for food production; all local plans to include a carbon assessment; climate adaptation and energy efficient buildings made a priority; and neighbourhood plans to carry more weight.

Cllr Davis and Cllr Laming have both submitted individual views on the Norfolk County Council Devolution Deal Consultation and the GNLP Gypsy and Traveller site consultation.

BDC and South Norfolk councils have been successful in a bid to receive funding of £750,000 to deliver a range of digital and cyber transformation pilot projects this year.

Cllr Laming has forwarded a letter to parish councils in the eastern region towards Great Yarmouth to ask if they would like to sign a joint letter requesting reinstatement of the Postwick Park and Ride service.

BDC has updated its Regulation of Investigatory Powers Policy which aims to ensure that any surveillance activities undertaken by the Council are compatible with the human right to privacy and meet the requirements of existing legislation.

In July 2022 BDC engaged in a Peer Review with the Local Government Association to help look at its focus for the future. A small team of experts came to observe and engage with the work the council does and submitted a report and recommendations. A Joint Councillor workshop was held in December 2022 and a progress review was carried out in March. Work is continuing to progress the recommendations and part of this involves looking at the way in which SNC and BDC work together. Some processes such as scrutiny will be aligned. Joint panel meetings will be held and Councillors will have some joint training sessions following the May elections.

The dates are now available for the Mindful Towns and villages training which will be held in Brundall at the Memorial Hall, but is open to people from all surrounding villages. If you know of any individuals/community groups who might like to undertake training to become a Mental Health Champion for a local community organisation please let them know the details. The training courses will be held on 17 May (evening) and 23 May (daytime). Online training is also available. Sign up is via the website.

[https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/mindful-towns-villages](https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/mindful-towns-villages" \t "_blank)

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming 22/3/23)