Broadland District Councillors Report for Brundall Parish Council Meeting – 18 December 2023

Round 3 of the Pride in Place Community Grant scheme is now open for applications which need to be submitted by 31 January 2024. Assessments for these will take place in February 2024 and spending has to be completed between April and December 2024.

£340,402 is available in total for BDC projects in Round 3.

Revenue funding can address specific challenges or promote an opportunity, Feasibility funding can help improve understanding of local needs and develop community/green infrastructure projects, and Capital funding is to support new or improved community facilities. Match funding is needed for capital project applications.

For more information please contact Andy Sexton, Pride in Place Relationships Manager

andy.sexton@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council have helped over 200 businesses secure grants totalling almost £700,000, through the Business Builder programme.

A new Help Hub van will be launched in Spring 2024. It will bring council Help Hub services to residents in areas to offer frontline support where services are requested most. Advice on benefits, debt welfare, isolation, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse will be available.

Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council have received the RSPCA Gold PawPrint Award for its stray dog service for the fourth year in a row. Animal Warden Services deliver the stray dog service and work as a partner to help reunite owners and their dogs.

In line with the Elections Act 2022, electors can now apply for most types of absent vote (postal votes and proxy votes) online or through a paper application. As from 31/10/23 a postal vote can be in place for a maximum period of up to 3 years.

The Emergency Planning team at BDC are happy to provide information and guidance to parish councils on preparing their Community Emergency plans. Contact: simon.faraday-drake@broadland.gov.uk

BDC has secured funding from the government Innovation and Capacity Fund. This has been partly used to provide a new web page giving information on Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP’s) which will be continually updated.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning>

BDC has approved the Council Tax Assistance scheme for 2024/2025. No changes are proposed.

The discretionary housing payment and council tax discretionary relief policies were reviewed, reworded for clarity and approved.  These are to relieve hardship and there has been an increase of demand for these funds. The key principles of the policies have remained the same.

BDC will be using funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to provide employment support in the district and encourage the take up of apprenticeships and work. Placements funding will also be used to help develop a skills hub focusing on the retrofit sector of the construction industry.

Cabinet has agreed to award a three-year contract for hybrid mail provision. Correspondence will be sent securely to a print service, which then prints and posts correspondence to residents. This will reduce production and print costs for the council.

Main Council has agreed that a new vehicle-related Public Space Protection Order should be put in place for a period of 3 years. It will apply at all times and across the whole of the district. This follows a period of public consultation which ran from 1/8/23 to 29/9/23.

The new Broadland Community Grant Scheme panel met on 7 December. Demand was high and there was insufficient funding to meet all requests. Some were granted partial funding. The successful applications were: Improvement to a play surface area in Freethorpe (£1718), Shed for Hellesdon Allotment association (£5154), Reepham Festival equipment (£12,028), Sprowston Community Garden (£1500), Sprowston Senior Citizens Club lighting (£600), Taverham Village Hall heating and WiFi system (£15000), Yare Boat Club facilities (£14,000).

A Clean up and Bloom grants scheme is open to community groups to fund spending on improving and cleaning up their area. For example money could be spent on plants for landscaping and litter picking. Up to £300 can be applied for via a simple application process.
https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/article/385/helping-communities-bloom

A motion was presented to Main Council on 14 December asking the Council to Declare Support for the Climate and Ecology (CE) Bill. The CE Bill is a private members bill currently before the House of Commons which aims to allgn current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030. Council voted to support the motion.

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming 17/12/23)