

Broadland District Councillors Report for Brundall Parish Council Meeting - 26 February 2024

The Broadland Community Tree Planting Grant scheme is still available for this tree planting season up to March 2024. It is open for community groups, town and parish councils and charities to plant trees in Broadland, ideally in a publicly accessible space. Funding can cover the cost of trees, planting, fencing and guards for protection, as well as aftercare to ensure the trees have the best chance of survival. Grants of up to £1000 per applicant are available. For more details see:

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

The Business Regulatory support hub service has been reviewed. This provides licensing and regulatory advice and support for local businesses. Uptake of the service has increased over time and businesses report strong satisfaction with the service.

A review has been undertaken of an Anti-Social Behaviour pilot service run by the council. An increased focus on early intervention has been successful in ensuring the council has resolved cases effectively and efficiently and promoted community safety. Demand on the service has been increasing, with complaints commonly relating to neighbour noise, fly tipping and wastes-related behaviour and noise from commercial premises.

A 20mph Speed Limit Draft Order has been prepared for Church Road, Cullings Hill, Ferry Lane and Oaks Lane in Postwick. A public consultation has been undertaken.

The Greater Norwich Local Plan is due for adoption soon. Outstanding issues considered from last year were housing deliverability, Nutrient Neutrality, provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites and the East Norwich Masterplan. The Inspectors have now concluded that with the recommended modifications the plan is sound.

Local Plans are critical documents setting the development framework for an area. A Local Plan:

- Establishes planning policies which are the basis for deciding whether to approve planning applications.
- Allocate sites for development (homes, employment etc).
- Ensure buildings and places are sustainable and of a certain standard.
- Facilitate infrastructure delivery.
- Aims to protect and enhance the natural, built, and historic environment.
- Aims to respond to climate change and support nature recovery.

The 3 councils will then each make a decision as to whether to adopt the GNLP. The decision will go to BDC Main Council on 28/3/24. After adoption there will be a 6 week legal challenge period. Following this, final copies of the GNLP with an interactive map will be produced.

Elections Update: the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner election will be on 2 May and a UK General Election will be held before 18/1/25. Voter ID requirements are now in place after their introduction last year. A list of acceptable types of ID is on the BDC website.

Electors can now apply online for an absent vote which includes postal votes and proxy votes. The applicant's ID needs to be verified. Political parties and campaigners cannot handle postal votes and a person can only hand in 5 postal votes at a polling station plus their own.

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

A polling district review has now been completed to look at polling station provision and an interim one will be due before 2025 to consider boundary division changes.

Broadland District Council (BDC) will be running World Café's for Health and Wellbeing in the district. The aim is to bring people together in an informal, welcoming environment to have a conversation based on a particular topic. This will be facilitated by hosts, and key themes and ideas that emerge are fed into a report. The aim is to learn from the community and find out about local needs and perspectives. The first one in Broadland will be held in Reepham in May 2024.

Cllr Davis visited the council Waste and Recycling Depot in Frettenham on 08/2/24. The old Depot, where refuse vehicles for the whole of Broadland are based, is due for demolition to be replaced on the same site by a new purpose-built modern depot.

Following the visit to the Frettenham Depot, Cllr Davis attended the Veolia Sustainability Awards in Aylsham Town Hall. Veolia operate and manage the depot and refuse vehicles on a long-term contract with the council. The Veolia Broadland Sustainability Fund of £10,000 supports community projects in the district each year. The Fund supports not-for-profit community groups and local organisations to enhance biodiversity, promote sustainable behaviours (reduce, reuse, recycle), protect or preserve resources and the environment. There were 8 successful applications for funds including The Conservation Volunteers and, in Brundall ward, Brundall Men's Shed for turning waste pallets into planters for the local community. Applications will be open again later this year.

Correspondence between Cllr Davis and Well Pharmacy indicates recent staffing problems experienced by the Well Pharmacy in Brundall appear to have been overcome with the appointment of a pharmacy manager following an irregular service.

BDC has agreed the Broadland District Council Plan for 2024-2028 which identifies key priorities, aims and activities for the next 4 years. This is supported by a separate document, the Delivery Plan, which gives more detail on the planned programme of work for 2024-26 and comes into effect from April 2024.

BDC has agreed to increase its Council Tax for a Band D property by £5 taking it to £134.91 for the year 2024/25. This is due to rising costs and the desire to keep delivering high quality services. Over the next few years the Council will need to find further savings or additional income because the level of government funding is not expected to keep pace with inflation. The amount of Council Tax collected for 2024/25 will amount to just over £6.6m. The estimated cost of providing services is just under £14m, and the remaining funds required are expected to come from government grants and business rates.

BDC has agreed to a revised charging structure for pre-application advice for planning applications. This will come into effect from 1 April 2024. It follows a national review of planning fees.

BDC has agreed to adopt the Halvergate and Tunstall Conservation Area appraisal. This was produced by the Broads Authority, consulted on and adopted by them in September 2023.

BDC has approved the 5 year Infrastructure Investment Plan for 2024-2029 and the Annual Growth Programme (AGP) 2024/25. The AGP includes a proposal for the Aylsham Gym and Fitness Hub (£400,000) and a multi-sport indoor community hub at The Nest, Horsford (£650,000) which will require match funding.

BDC has approved a new Charging Policy to ensure that a consistent and fair approach is taken when setting fees and charges.

BDC voted against a motion to give support for the Norwich Western Link at the Main Council meeting on 22/2/24.

A new policy has been drawn up for customers experiencing domestic abuse. BDC is seeking accreditation from the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance. An average of 13 cases of domestic abuse per month were recorded for both BDC and SNC in 2023.

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 23/2/24)