

Broadland District Councillors Report for Brundall Parish Council Meeting – 20 May 2024

Brundall is the chosen BDC Ward for the Fast Followers Net Zero Climate Change project run by Jonathan Ward. There are 7 communities involved in Norfolk and a launch event is being held on 21 May at the University of East Anglia's Enterprise Centre to take forward the next stage of the project. Consultants will be assisting with the engagement and research part of the programme.

The ambition of Norfolk Net Zero Communities is to make it easier for residents to:

- Make changes to properties so they are more energy efficient
- Use greener ways to travel
- Create and access renewable energy

The seven Net Zero Communities which are being created will help to:

- Provide greater understanding on the barriers that residents face in making these changes
- Identifying and producing recommendations for local authorities to minimise any barriers
- Implementing improvements to enable greater uptake of measures

BDC recognised Earth Day with a range of events at the Horizon Centre from 22 – 26 April.

Cllr Davis attended a training session on World Cafes on 8 May, with a view to possibly starting one in Cantley. For more information see:

<https://theworldcafe.com/key-concepts-resources/world-cafe-method/>

Cllr Davis has been following up on plans to develop a local air quality strategy and monitor air quality in the district with improved equipment.

Norfolk Environmental Credits Ltd is now trading credits to offset pollution of major waterways in the district. Some credits will apply to conversion of septic tanks to Package Treatment Plants which is being rolled out in the district. Specific geographical areas are being targeted to begin with. Each conversion will allow for approximately 8-10 dwellings to be built. The credits have been made available for some large developments and now smaller scale builders are being given high priority.

<https://www.norfolkenvironmentalcredits.co.uk/>

A Nature Recovery area project set up by Harleston town council offers a model to encourage small nature recovery projects in local areas. Town and Parish councils can get involved in this together with schools and other organisations in their own area.

<https://harleston-tc.gov.uk/nature-recovery-area/>

This is being supported by both district councils and Norfolk County Council. The Green Infrastructure officer at South Norfolk and Broadland can provide help and advice.

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A new Community Planning Projects officer, Julie Ringer, has been appointed to support communities to identify ambitions and influence future growth of the local area. These aims are often defined in locally produced plans or strategies, such as neighbourhood plans. Advice can be provided on all forms of community planning activity and how to identify or deliver projects to support these ambitions.

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Parish and Town councils will be provided soon with a toolkit from BDC to help them to recruit volunteers in areas where there are vacancies on the councils.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/council/become-town-parish-councillor>

There are more funding opportunities coming up for communities including:

Acre Village Hall Fund

<https://acre.org.uk/press-release-small-grants-made-available-to-village-halls-in-england/>

Community Ownership Fund Round 4 - to help community groups to take ownership of assets/amenities which are at risk of being lost

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-ownership-fund-round-4-how-to-express-your-interest-in-applying>

Funding for Rural Community Green Spaces should be coming soon. These will be grants to help create, restore and enhance green spaces.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rural-community-green-spaces-to-be-rejuvenated-through-new-government-investment?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=4f81c1bf-b5aa-4fed-a4bd-9eb3c381b291&utm_content=immediately

Contact the BDC Communities Team for more information
communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

A new Housing Allocations Policy has been developed which will be used to guide the process of housing people in the district. The new policy will go out for a 4-week consultation. All are welcome to make comments and the closing date is 6 June 2024.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/housing/housing-allocations-scheme-consultation-2024>

The Broadland District Council Strategic Plan for 2024-2028 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. These documents can now be viewed on the website:

Strategic Plan:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/downloads/download/1175/broadland-district-councils-strategic-plan-2024-2028>

Delivery Plan:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/downloads/download/1176/broadland-district-councils-delivery-plan-2024-2026>

Cllr Davis met with National Highways managers at a coffee morning in Lingwood on 10 May. Many concerns have been raised by residents at the increase in volume and speed of traffic through local villages, particularly Brundall, Strumpshaw and Lingwood, due to the road and central reservation closures related to the A47 works. Cllr Davis raised the following points with National Highways and the contractor, Galliford Try:

- Review the closures, diversions and signage given the construction phase has not yet started.
- National Highways (NH) to liaise more closely with Norfolk County Council (NCC) Highways regarding the road diversions.
- Urge NCC Highways to provide better signage and reminders to limit speed on narrow, unfamiliar, rural roads.
- NH to anticipate any changes well in advance and provide more timely warning to the public and local parish councils of changes.
- NH to provide more notice to residents and local parish councils on future consultation meetings. NH said a notification of the Lingwood coffee morning was sent to all local parish councils a week in advance of the drop-in.

Cantley parish council will write to NH to ask if a representative might be able to attend the next parish cluster meeting on 28 May.

The Council Tax Assistance Scheme at BDC is currently being reviewed.

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 17/5/24)