

Broadland District Councillors Report for Brundall Parish Council Meeting – 27 January 2025

The Brundall Short Mat Bowls Club in Brundall has been awarded a £300 BDC Keep it Going Grant, which will go towards the expenses of running the group

At BDC Main Council on 19 December 2024 it was agreed to:

Adopt a tenancy strategy which sets out the council's expectations of registered providers and private landlords in relation to housing tenure and affordability

Adopt the registered provider policies. The council became a registered provider of housing in September 2024. The policies agreed at this meeting include the Void Management policy, Tenancy Fraud policy, Temporary Accommodation Charging and Recovery of Arrears policy and the Antisocial Behaviour policy.

To adopt a matrix approach and revised Environmental Penalties for certain waste related offences

Adopt a new Permanent Pavement Licensing Regime with new fees and charges and revised policy documentation

To adopt a revised Unreasonably Persistent Complainant policy

To adopt the licensing policy entitled Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles 2025 – 2028

Grants of up to £2000 through the government Building Futures grant, and practical support are available for businesses in Broadland who are thinking of hiring a new apprentice. The closing date for applications is 31 January 2025

<https://apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org/buildingfutures>

BDC plans to create a Women's Safety Charter to help prioritise the safety of women and girls. This will be based on feedback from residents. A survey is currently open to those of all genders and ages. To take part or join a focus group, click on this link:

[https://www.southnorfolkand](https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/womens-safety-charter)

BDC Cabinet agreed to an increase in the fee per property for the Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (GIRAMS), and to recommend updated governance arrangements for delivering GIRAMS projects. The aim of the strategy is to protect natural habitats in Norfolk from the pressures due to increases in visitor numbers.

A draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Custom and Self-Build Housing has been drawn up and will go out for a 6-week public consultation from mid-January 2025. The link to the consultation is here:

BDC is required to make provision for custom and self-build housing in the district and the SPD provides further guidance and information.

BDC Cabinet has agreed to implement a Rechargeable Repairs Policy which gives more detail on the charges due when damage is caused to council properties and the management of maintenance and repairs.

A new draft Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity Delivery Plan for 2025-2028 has been drawn up. BDC adopted an Environment Strategy and Delivery Plan in 2022 and set a Council-wide net-zero emissions target for 2030. The new draft builds on the original plan and sets out targeted actions to tackle climate change, enhance biodiversity, deliver an efficient waste and recycling service and improve overall environmental quality.

The next Town and Parish Council meeting forum will be held online on Tuesday 4 February at 1.00 pm. Meetings will be held monthly and will include updates on potential plans for devolution in Norfolk. An in-person Town and Parish Council summit will be scheduled for April 2025.

At an Extraordinary meeting of Norfolk County Council on Thursday 9th January the County Council voted to submit a request to government to cancel the upcoming May 2025 County elections and to be included on a priority list of counties for local government reorganisation. After the council meeting the NCC Cabinet met and agreed to write to the Minister of State requesting inclusion on the priority list and the cancellation of elections. This is a precursor to local government reorganisation involving the establishment of a Mayoral Strategic Authority and the existing district, city, and borough councils to be merged with the county council to form unitary councils. It is not yet clear what this will mean for Norfolk and Suffolk (Suffolk County Council also voted to submit a similar request to government). Government is scheduled to respond to the request in February as part of the [English Devolution White Paper](#), published on the 16th December 2024. Hence, we will not know for certain if the county elections will be cancelled until the Minister has made his decision. Meanwhile, there has been speculation on what form both the Mayoral Strategic Authority and unitary councils might take across Norfolk and Suffolk but no firm decisions have been made, and cannot be made, until the Minister has given his decision and consultations have taken place.

cancellation of elections should only be for areas where there is a plan in place for local government reorganisation and that is not the situation in Norfolk.

There is minimal comment on parish councils in the White Paper. However, in paragraph 4.2.3 *Local government reorganisation* it states:

“We know people value the role of governance at the community scale and that can be a concern when local government is reorganised. We will therefore want to see stronger community arrangements when reorganisation happens in the way councils engage at a neighbourhood or area level. We will also rewire the relationship between town and parish councils and principal Local Authorities, strengthening expectations on engagement and community voice.”

BDC is reviewing the Norfolk County Council Norfolk Economic Strategy 2024-29. The Strategy aligns with the Broadland Economic Growth Strategic Plan and supporting growth and investment, quality locations and infrastructure, skills development and innovation.

BDC is reviewing the Member Ward Grant and Community Grant Scheme. In the year 2023/24 a total of £41,396 was spent through Members Ward Grants on 72 projects in the district. Also in 2023/24 a total of £50,000 was allocated to 7 larger projects through the Community Grant Scheme.

Brundall Memorial Hall Committee were awarded £9000 towards the cost of making improvements to the Memorial Hall from the BDC Community Grant Scheme in October 2024. The committee have been successful in making bids for additional funds, including one from the National Lottery for £16,000 which will enable the second phase of their project to go ahead. Congratulations!

The finalists have been announced for the Broadland and South Norfolk Business Awards 2025. The Awards Ceremony will be on 19 March and the awards are sponsored by Birketts LLP. For more information see:
<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/business/broadland-and-south-norfolk-business-awards/finalists-2025>

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 23/1/25)