

Broadland District Councillor Report for Brundall Parish Council Meeting – 24 March 2025

BDC is offering a new grant to support Town and Parish Councils, and community organisations across the district to organise a commemorative event between 1 May and 15 May for the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) day (8 May 2025). Up to £300 is available per parish. Applications will close on Wednesday 30th April 2025.

To apply go to:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/community-funding/ve-day-grant>

The Nutrient Mitigation Fund (Norfolk) is a collaboration between Broadland District Council, South Norfolk Council, Breckland Council, North Norfolk District Council and Norwich City Council. It offers grant for feasibility work, and capital loans to deliver nutrient reduction projects across Norfolk, enabling landowners and businesses to bring forward projects to reduce the levels of phosphorus and nitrogen currently entering the River Wensum and The Broads. For more information go to:

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

Work will begin soon to make Broadland Country Park near Horsford more accessible and enjoyable for people by providing a new visitor centre and café. The Council is working closely with local architects and specialist contractors to ensure the project is as eco-friendly as possible. The Council is also committed to achieving operational net-zero CO2e emissions from the cafe and visitor centre by integrating renewable energy systems such as heat pumps and solar panels, along with the use of sustainable materials.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/play-areas-open-spaces-public-assets/broadlandcountrypark>

The next BDC Town and Parish Council Forum will be held in person on 2 April from 9.00 am -12.00 noon at the Council Offices at the Horizon Centre on Broadland Business Park. The agenda will cover devolution and local government reorganisation.

BDC and Veolia will be giving away a 50 Litre bag of Pro-Grow multi-purpose compost to 1000 customers. Residents who have signed up for the garden waste collection service in 2025/26 can enter by completing an online form, and bags will be distributed in June.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/1000-bags-of-compost-give-away>

The BDC Big Litter Pick launched on 1 March. Groups involved with the community, local schools and parish councils can get involved and 20 prizes of £200 can be won to be spent on supporting the community. In addition, each participating group will receive a £20 voucher.

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

The BDC response to the devolution consultation and local government organisation will go to Main Council on 20 March. The link to the agenda papers is here:

<https://democracy.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=925&Ver=4>

There will be a consultation with Town and Parish Councils following the councils' submission of the interim plan to the government on 21 March. Following this, a full business case for local government reorganisation will be prepared for submission in time for the government deadline of 26 September 2025.

A key priority of BDC is to address homelessness which has placed more pressure on the council. The aim is to increase the council's stock of temporary and resettlement accommodation using government grant funding. A Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) bid to the government has been successful to contribute to the purchase of a further 3 temporary accommodation properties and 1 resettlement property.

A Rough Sleeper and Housing consultation is due to go out soon to town and parish councils to ask for their views. If you know of people who need help with housing contact the Help Hub on 01603 430431 or email helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

At the last Town and Parish council summit the issue of youth provision was raised. BDC have looked into this and one of the potential providers of services is the YMCA. For more information on this: <https://www.ymcanorfolk.org/communities-team/youth-services/>

A new Park and Ride Service will be running from Sunday 30 March. The Postwick Park and Ride service will be run by Simonds. More information on the service can be found here: <https://www.simonds.co.uk/norwichparkandride>

Cantley Village Hall have been awarded a VE Day Grant for £130 from BDC to help fund their celebrations.

The net Community Links Network Meeting will feature a session about the importance of supporting mental health within your community. The Mindful Towns and Villages Coordinator will give an insight into the project and an update on free training available for community groups to access. The meeting is on 3 April from 16.30 – 18.30. To book a space go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-links-network-session-april-2025-tickets-1279298067959?aff=oddttdtcreator>

BDC has a UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation from the government for the next year of £429,520, and the work programme for 2025/26 has been agreed. It will provide support to businesses, communities and individuals across the district and aligns with the council's Economic Growth Strategic Plan and net zero commitments. The Business Builder support programme will be extended until March 2026. The Building Futures and Help Hub Employability provision will continue to March 2026. The council plans to provide more youth engagement services through Pride in Place and feasibility funding to support development of future community and green infrastructure projects.

BDC has noted the NCC Norfolk Economic Strategy for 2024-2029 which supports the district priorities of growth and investment, quality locations and infrastructure, skills development and innovation. This strategy can be viewed in the Cabinet Papers:

<https://democracy.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=914&Ver=4>

BDC has agreed to accept an allocation of funding of £638,400 from Round Three of the Local Authority Housing Fund to purchase additional temporary and resettlement accommodation.

At BDC Main Council on 20 March 2025 it was agreed to:

Adopted a revised version of the previous Environmental Strategy and Delivery Plan, now titled the Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity Delivery Plan 2025-2028. The revised version focuses on the council's commitment to achieve its net-zero targets while enhancing biodiversity and upholding the highest standards of environmental excellence. The plan focuses on 6 core areas: Net Zero 2030 Council, Net Zero 2050 Broadland, Protect and Enhance the environment, Waste and Recycling, Biodiversity Nature Recovery and Green Infrastructure, and Empowering Communities.

The plan can be viewed in the Main Council papers:

<https://democracy.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=925&Ver=4>

Adopt a new Pay Policy Statement for 2025 – 2026 in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2012. This will be published on the Council's website from 31 March 2025.

Approve Broadland District Council's response to the government Devolution consultation on the proposal to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority for the Local Government areas of Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council. The BDC responses to the 7 set questions can be viewed in the papers in Appendix 1

<https://democracy.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=925&Ver=4>

Accept the recommendations of the report commissioned by Broadland and other Norfolk District Councils on preparing a proposal for Local Government Reorganisation, to support its submission to government for consideration and to undertake public consultation on the preferred option. Final proposals need to be submitted in the form of a full business case to government by 26 September 2025. The interim report considered proposals for a single unitary authority, two and three unitary authorities, and concluded that the case was strongest for a three unitary authority model to retain local distinctiveness and accountability to residents. BDC voted to support the 3 unitary proposal. The suggested unitary areas would be East of Norfolk, Urban Norwich and West of Norfolk.

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 24/3/25)