

Broadland District Councillor Report for Brundall Parish Council Meeting – 27 October 2025

Cllr Laming attended Blofield Courthouse on 19 September to meet some of the Wellbeing Champions who have completed their training on Mental Health Awareness as part of the Mindful Communities programme.

At Overview and Scrutiny on 23 September a report was given on the progress of the new Customer Experience project. The project aims to improve service delivery and customer satisfaction through using a new digital platform. This will provide an additional means of liaising with BDC in addition to the existing channels. A contract has been awarded to provide the service.

Household food waste collections are available for residents across the entire district. The most recent participation rate is 78%, which is high compared with other local authorities.

The October Half Term Tots 2 Teens activity bookings are open. For information and to book go to

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/community/tots-2-teens>

The current Greater Norwich Local Plan was adopted in March 2024. The process to create the next Local Plan will begin soon. The government has changed the calculation for local housing need and new National Development Management Policies (NDMPs) are due to come in. A team to lead the process will be appointed, baseline data will be calculated for the Greater Norwich area and a call for sites to look at land availability is likely to go out in early 2026. The last local plan took 7 years to create. The timeline for the new plan is likely to be 3-4 years, even with plans for Local Government Organisation.

Cantley Sugar factory is working closely with National Highways to minimise disruption to local traffic routes during the sugar beet campaign. The diversion route takes traffic on the B1140 when driving to and from the factory from the A47 and there is now additional signage in place to stop lorries using Beighton Road. Do report any incidences of traffic to/from the site not following the recommended diversion. A photo of the vehicle, or a note of the registration plate, will help to identify it as quickly as possible so action can be taken. Details can be sent to communications@britishsugar.com

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

The various proposals for unitary models have now been submitted from all the councils in Norfolk. The government will consider whether they are compliant proposals, and those that are will then go out to consultation with the relevant statutory consultees. The government minister will then make a decision in the first quarter of 2026. A Structural Change Order will then be enacted, which will inform how the process progresses and is delivered.

Some questions have been raised about how to best serve the unparished areas. A neighbourhood governance model is being considered which should provide more guidance.

Elections to the Shadow Unitary/(ies) will be in May 2027 with vesting of the new authority (ies) in May 2028. The expectation is that the District Council Elections which would have been in May 2027 will not go ahead.

Once the Shadow Unitary/(ies) are set up, any big decisions eg major contracts will not be taken by the district councils but by the new shadow authority/(ies).

The aim is to ensure that the shadow unitary/(ies) will be ready so that after Vesting Day it/they will be ready to take safe and legal decisions.

Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk

Suffolk County Council has agreed to move ahead with the government programme, and Norfolk County Council agreed on 16 October. The process will now be enabled using a Structural Change Order and elections for the Mayor held in May 2026 at the same time as elections to Norfolk County Council.

A Town and Parish Council in person Summit will be held on 12 November from 10.00 to 2.00 pm at the Horizon Centre on Broadland Business Park. The agenda is being compiled. There will be lunch provided and a chance for networking.

Cllr Laming attended the Integrated Care System District Council meeting on 9 October. Reports were received on the large number of projects being carried out by the 8 Health and Wellbeing Boards. Broadland provides the Help Hub, Social Prescribing, the Community Engagement Van, the Social Moments Enterprise and Mindful Towns and Villages. For more information on the Help Hub see:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/help-hub>

BDC is now offering Winter Pressure Grants for up to £500 for community organisations which put forward an initiative to help support residents who are struggling with the costs of living. There is limited funding so do apply as soon as possible. For more details and to apply go to:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/community/funding/winter-pressure-grant>

Cllr Davis applied for a BDC Community Grant to fund refurbishment of the toilets at the Brundall Scout Hut. This was approved in full on 9 October, with the project being awarded the maximum possible amount of £15000.

Cllr Davis attended a successful district recycling event for small electrical items and textiles on 10 October, to help residents to reduce waste and recycle more. The electrical items collected are sent to a contractor in Costessey. 75% of materials in old electrical items can be recycled and used in new equipment. Textiles can be reused or recycled and any that cannot be are shredded into fibres ready to make new fabric.

Cllr Jess Royal and Cllr Eleanor Laming attended the BDC Community Awards on Thursday 16 October at the Royal Norwich Golf Club as there were some amazing nominees in our wards (Burlingham Ward and Brundall Ward) who were;

The Shoulder of Mutton Strumpshaw – Winner of the Business in the Community Award

Tiny Tots - Shortlisted for the Community Organisation of the Year

Yare Valley Churches – Shortlisted for the Community Organisation of the Year Award

Roger Parsons – Volunteers for Age UK Norfolk – Shortlisted for Volunteer of the Year

Bryce Crane – Volunteers extra hours at Broadland Police Station – Nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award

It was fantastic to meet everyone and well done for all the wonderful work you are doing!

Broadland Country Park near Horsford is being upgraded. There will be a new visitor centre and parking to improve its accessibility. Indoor and outdoor seating will be provided, and the new building will be on the edge the woodland to reduce impact on trees. The centre will have facilities for those with disabilities and visiting school groups. Income will help fund park improvements and projects. 6 more acres of new woodland will be added to expand the park.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/leisure/play-areas-open-spaces-public-assets/broadlandcountrypark/broadland-country-park>

Cllr Davis attended the Broadland Country Park Breaking Ground ceremony for the park visitor centre on Monday 20 October which signalled the beginning of construction. The centre is expected to open in Spring next year.

On 15 October Cllr Davis attended a workshop at Lingwood Village Hall on the new BDC Future for Nature Fund. This is now open for applications from Town and Parish Councils, community groups and charities. It will provide grants of up to £5000 for nature restoration projects in the district, such as mini-forests, pond creation or restoration, scrub improvements and circular walks. Projects should meet the objectives of carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement and access to green space. The closing date for applications is 21 November 2025. To apply go to:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/environment/broadlands-a-future-for-natural-fund>

The BDC Help Hub Van visited Cantley Village Hall on 22 October, while the Social Moments Enterprise were running family wellbeing activities at the same time (Social Moments is an enterprise which supports Norfolk families through food, play and connection). The Help Hub Van provides support and advice relating to council tax, debt, housing, employment, training and other issues.

BDC Cabinet agreed on 21 October to extend the contract for the processing of dry recyclables collected in Broadland to 31 March 2030. This contract is with Norse Environmental Waste Services Ltd, and the contract currently covers all of Norfolk's Waste Collection Authorities. A strategic review was undertaken as there are policy and legal changes due to come in nationally. These include Simpler Recycling, Extended Producer Responsibility and a Deposit Return Scheme due in 2027.

At BDC Main Council on 23 October 2025 the following were approved:

The fourth version of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF) was endorsed and BDC is to remain a signatory to it. The NSPF is used to help prepare future local plans and BDC is a signatory to it together with other Norfolk councils.

The updated NSPF could form the basis for a future Spatial Development Strategy which is a high-level strategic planning document that will be produced by the new

Mayoral Combined County Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk when it is set up. There are updates on topics such as Nutrient Neutrality, Biodiversity Net Gain, Local Nature Recovery Strategies and matters linking to Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, the NHS Integrated Care Board, Water Resources East, Active Norfolk and the Marine Management Organisation.

The draft Supplementary Planning Document: Design Code for BDC and SNC was approved. A 6-week public consultation on this code will commence soon. If adopted, the Design Code will assist planners in negotiating the design details of new residential development schemes. It will apply to all residential schemes between one and 500 dwellings. Large scale schemes need to undertake a Master Planning process.

The draft Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was approved. This will soon go out for a 6-week public consultation. Once adopted it will be a material consideration when assessing planning applications. The focus headings are: Healthier Happier and more Active People, Nature Rich places, Climate Resilient places and Prosperous Communities. It is to be used by developers when designing and proposing new developments. It is hoped to publish the final SPD in early 2026.

The draft Sustainable Communities (GNLP Policy 2) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was approved. This expands on the existing GNLP policy to give additional guidance. Developers will need to prepare a Sustainability Statement and Delivery Statement for relevant applications. SPD 's are material considerations in the determination of planning applications. A 6-week public consultation on this document will commence soon.

The Broadland and South Norfolk Homelessness and Rough Sleeper strategy for 2025 to 2030 was adopted. Up to July 2025, the council has acquired 47 units of temporary accommodation. It has also set up a Sanctuary Scheme to support survivors of domestic abuse to stay safely in their homes. It has introduced tenancy and independent living skills courses. Between 2020 and 2025, 679 social housing homes were delivered. However, there is still an increased demand on services, due to the ending of private rented tenancies as a result of significant private rent increases, and households fleeing domestic abuse.

The Annual Report of the Audit Committee was presented.

The Managing Director of BDC was appointed as the Local Returning Officer for the combined county authority mayoral elections.

It was noted that the political balance of the council has changed. There are 47 councillors in the following proportion: Conservatives 19, Liberal Democrats 14, Labour 7, Green 4, Reform UK 1, Independent 1 and Independent Conservative 1.

It was agreed to approve some changes to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. These will be reviewed and updated at least every 2 years.

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 27/10/25)