

District Councillor Report for the Strumpshaw Annual Parish Meeting – 21 May 2024

This report outlines the activities of the two district councillors for Brundall Ward (Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming) over the last year.

We have attended the Main Council meetings at Broadland District Council. On 25 May 2023 a partnership of Liberal Democrat, Labour and Green councillors formed the council administration.

Cllr Davis is a member of the Cabinet and holds the Environment Portfolio which covers a wide remit including waste and recycling, street lighting, gypsies and travellers, community protection and environmental quality, licensing, food safety, burials, public health protection and nutrient neutrality.

Cllr Davis is a BDC representative on the following organisations: Broadland Futures Initiative Elected Members Forum; Community Rail Norfolk; Broads (2006) Internal Drainage Board; Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance; Norfolk Waste Partnership.

Cllr Laming has a place on the following committees/panels: Planning, Overview and Scrutiny, Communities Housing and Planning, Awards and Standards.

We have attended main parish council meetings for Postwick, Brundall, Strumpshaw and Cantley and cluster group meetings (at which representatives of local parish councils meet to share ideas and current issues). We have raised issues on their behalf and submitted regular update reports.

We corresponded with residents over a wide range of matters such as planning and enforcement issues, light pollution, highways concerns mainly related to pot-holes, road safety and bus service provision, waste collections and fly tipping.

We have commented on several planning applications where appropriate, both in the ward and in neighbouring wards, and called in contentious applications to planning committees on both BDC and the Broads Authority.

We supported a motion to BDC to agree to declare a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency at Main Council on 27 July 2023, to take action accordingly within the limits of its resources and powers and report back annually on progress. We supported a motion to BDC on 14 December 2023 asking the Council to Declare Support for the Climate and Ecology (CE) Bill. (a private members bill before the House of Commons which aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030).

We have responded to consultations on NCC Green Spaces in the Greater Norwich area and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Norfolk.

Cllr Davis took part in a Mental Health First Aid training course for community organisations organised by the BDC Mindful Towns and Villages Team. Both Brundall and Cantley are now Mindful Villages.

Cllr Davis spoke about Local Government to Brundall Guides and Cantley W.I.

We supported the increase of the Member Ward Grant to £1000 per council member (a grant that each district councillor has to spend on projects within their wards) and the creation of a Community Grant Scheme for larger projects.

Cllr Davis used his Member's Ward Grant to fund the purchase of an 8-seater wheelchair accessible round top recycled plastic table for Limpenhoe Village Hall, and Cllr Laming's grant has part funded a new ramp for Snowy's Pre-School and Nursery, Brundall.

We have attended the following events and meetings: Open Day at Blackwater Carr, Brundall Armistice Day and Remembrance Day services, Gridserve Launch Event, Brundall Lions Fete and the BDC Harvest Civic Service.

Cllr Davis has continued to liaise with Anglian Water and the Norfolk County Council Flood and Water Manager re flooding issues in the ward in both Strumpshaw and Cantley. He attended an East of England Water Summit on 8 March 2024.

Cllr Davis and Cllr Laming have raised concerns about the potential loss of the Postwick park and ride service and continue to lobby for it to be retained.

(submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming - 17/5/24)

Abbreviations:

BDC – Broadland District Council

NCC – Norfolk County Council