

Broadland District Councillor Report for Strumpshaw Parish Council Meeting – 21 May 2024

BDC has a new grant available for Broadland residents. The Play Streets Grant, which is now open, allows communities to apply for up to £75 to purchase low-cost items such as games, sporting equipment, and for promotional activity, around short, regular road closures for free, child led play, stewarded by residents. Residents can apply for temporary road closures for this via Norfolk County Council.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-funding-3/play-streets-grant>

A new computer system has been introduced recently and the e-billing information is being migrated across to the new one. This has meant that some residents who signed up to receive an e-bill have been issued this year with a 2024/25 council tax bill in paper form. When this process has been completed those who have signed up for e-billing will receive future bills by email.

The Greater Norwich Local Plan has now been adopted having been approved by Broadland District Council (BDC), South Norfolk Council (SNC) and Norwich City Council. The plan is a critical document setting the development framework for the Greater Norwich Area up until 2038. Following the 6 week legal challenge period final copies of the GNLP with an interactive map will be produced and published on the BDC website.

The BDC Cost of Living programme for 2022/23 has been audited and the findings presented. Several large government grants were being administered to those in need at the time.

A further review of the council's relationship with the main housing providers in the district has been undertaken. Work is underway to improve the service provision where possible.

The Rural Business Builder Grant Programme has been reviewed. Since its launch in October 2022 it has supported over 180 businesses through training, advice and grant provision. 81 grants have been paid out, totalling £341,952 of investment in the district.

The Councillor training programme and the role of Member Champions has been reviewed.

BDC has approved plans to expand the One Team social prescribing services to cover all of Broadland's GP prescribing services. The cost of this will be borne by external partners and this is a valuable service which helps to promote the health and wellbeing of residents.

BDC has approved new positions in the Economic Growth team to help deliver the council's environmental agenda.

BDC Cabinet 23/4/24) The council has increased its stock of temporary accommodation and has become a Registered Provider of housing. A new company called Broadland Living has been set up, which should in time provide affordable housing for residents following a bid to the government Local Authority Housing Fund. New housing documents have been created

as required including a Tenancy Strategy, Tenancy Policies, Temporary Accommodation policy and a Procedure for conducting Internal Reviews of Homeless Decisions. Updates to the overall housing strategy and main policy have been carried out.

The Park and Ride has been extended until at least Summer 2024, when a wider review and re-tendering of the whole Park and Ride service will be undertaken. The Postwick service stops at Norwich Rail Station and Castle Meadow on its route into the city. Buses run every 20 minutes from 7.20 am. Tickets cost £3 for an adult for all day travel, with additional passengers in the group paying £1. Concessions £2. Children under 5 travel for free. Please use and support this service if you can.

Cllr Davis and Cllr Laming attended the BDC Chairman's Civic Reception on 18/4/24.

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)