

## **Broadland District Councillor Report for Strumpshaw Parish Council Meeting – 21 November 2023**

The BDC Members Ward Grant scheme has been reviewed to ensure that all funding meets the requirements. Organisations receiving grants will be offered promotional material to clarify that BDC has provided funding for their project. 38 projects in the district were funded in the year 2022/2023.

A meeting was held on 10 October to firm up business arrangements for the Joint Venture Environmental Credits Scheme. Norfolk Environmental Credits Ltd (NEC) is a company limited by guarantee formed by the local authorities affected by the need to prevent additional nutrient pollution of the Broads and Wensum Special Areas of Conservation. The local authorities currently in the scheme include Broadland, South Norfolk, Breckland and North Norfolk. NEC will buy environmental mitigation and sell environmental credits to provide a portfolio of projects to help mitigate the impact of nutrient enrichment arising from additional housing development which has constrained house building in the district since March 2022.

A further letter will be sent from District Council leaders to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities re the proposed County Devolution deal to raise outstanding matters of concern which will have an impact on the district councils.

A new telephony contract is now in place and a new system has been up and running from 1 November. The system deals with approximately 500,000 calls per year and has been fully integrated with Microsoft Teams.

The BDC Housing Standards Enforcement Policy has been reviewed. Progress has been made on plans to improve long term housing availability to meet future housing needs and to develop a revised housing management strategy.

A new officer has been employed to deal with flytipping in the district. The aim is to gather detailed information and act to prevent and pursue incidents of flytipping and protect the environment. Parish councils and residents can assist by reporting flytipping incidents giving the correct details to enable these to be followed up, to act as witnesses where relevant and harness neighbourhood watch schemes if possible. For more information contact Russell Watkins at [Russell.Watkins@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:Russell.Watkins@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)

A Keep It Going Grant of £300 from BDC has been approved to cover some of the costs of the Lingwood and Strumpshaw Parish Magazine. 1520 copies are printed and delivered free of charge to all residents in Lingwood, Strumpshaw, Buckenham, Haddingham and South Burlingham to raise awareness of what is going on locally.

The Broadland Landowner Tree Planting Grant is available again this tree planting season Nov 2023 to March 2024. <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/environmental-quality-1/broadland-landowner-tree-planting-grant>

Grants of up to approximately £1000 per applicant are available for local hedge and tree planting projects. This equates to up to 120m of hedgerow or 600 trees. Landowner grants will provide 100% of funding required for trees and guards in approved applications,

however labour costs are not covered by grants. Applications for projects which have the involvement of parish councils and/or tree wardens will be prioritised. The minimum size for a project is 25m or 125 trees. For projects below this size applications can be made for subsidised tree packs from Norfolk County Council – see following paragraph.

Norfolk County Council are making 40,000 trees available at reduced cost for any residents, landowners, community groups and schools.

Tree packs will be available from collection points across the county including Norwich (County Hall and Broadland Country Park), Acle, Long Stratton, Watton, Fakenham and King's Lynn. Applications are now open and packs will be ready for the planting season between December 2023 - February 2024.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/campaigns/1-million-trees-for-norfolk/get-involved/subsidised-tree-pack-scheme>

For the first time, Climate Emergency UK have assessed and scored UK councils of all types (except for parish/town councils) on their completed climate action across the whole council, using Council Climate Action Scorecards. The scores vary, but only 41 councils score more than 50% in the assessment. It is recognised that there are national barriers making it harder for councils to deliver effective, point scoring, climate action but there is more that can be done to make progress towards net zero.

Broadland District Council is average in performance when compared with other district councils. For more information and the results see:

<https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/district/>

BDC celebrated Recycle Week in October and aims to raise awareness of items that can be recycled but which often end up in the green waste bins such as empty aerosols, plastic cleaning product bottles, plastic toiletry bottles, plastic pots and tubs and food tins. Last year Broadland residents recycled 10,000 tonnes of waste, plus 50 tonnes of electrical equipment, 40 tonnes of textiles and 7 tonnes of batteries.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/recycling/goes-recycling-bin>

The Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) final consultation on main modifications to the plan is now open and ends on 6 December. The plan, produced by BDC, SNC and Norfolk County Council sets out site provision for 45,000 new homes between 2018-2038. and is likely to be adopted early in 2024. Consultation documents are on the main website:

[www.gnlp.org.uk](http://www.gnlp.org.uk).

BDC is undertaking a review of polling districts and places to ensure that electors in the district have reasonable facilities for voting and that polling places are accessible. Current boundaries are not being reviewed. More information is on the council website.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/elections/review-polling-districts-places-2023-24>

BDC aims to make improvements to facilities at Broadland Country Park which is in the parish of Felthorpe. These plans include a new visitor kiosk, car park resurfacing, accessible portaloo toilet trial, play and den building area, waymarking and boundary

signage, secure storage facilities and a solar power generator for charging electric tools and providing lighting.

A new customer experience system is being proposed following a survey done by external consultants. This should improve the experience of residents when contacting the council.

Cabinet has agreed to instruct Norfolk Environmental Waste Services (NEWS) to start procuring a new food waste processing contract jointly with other councils. The current contract ends on 30/9/24. All councils will be required to collect domestic food waste from 2026. Currently, there is a charge for the disposal of DIY waste but, following a change to national rules, it will be possible to dispose of domestic DIY waste at your local recycling centre (Strumpshaw) without charge after April 2024.

Following a public consultation which ended in September 2023, Cabinet has agreed to recommend that a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to address Vehicle Related Anti-social behaviour is put in place across the whole district and will apply at all times (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). A review will be undertaken of its effectiveness after it has been in place for a year.

Cllr Davis and Cllr Laming attended both the Armistice Day service and Remembrance Day service in Brundall to lay a wreath.

There is still time to put nominations forward for the Broadland District Council Business Awards. Businesses can nominate themselves for any one of 10 categories including: Business Growth, Innovation, Employer of the year, Environmental impact, Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing, Excellence in Insurance, Financial and Professional Services, Food and Drink producer of the year, New business, Small business of the Year and Tourism business of the year. Residents are invited to vote for their Favourite Retailer of the Year and Pub of the Year. The closing date is 15/12/23. Winners will be announced on 5/3/24.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/article/353/nominations-now-open-for-business-awards>

A Winter Pressures grant has been launched to support residents. Funding is for a maximum of £1500 per group and can be used for projects such as supporting warm spaces, providing hampers/gifts for vulnerable households, purchasing warmth providing equipment for those in need. Projects need to be engaged with other local support and the Help Hub. For more information and an application form:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/winter-pressures-grant/1>

Norfolk County Council have launched a survey via Facebook initially on the Park and Ride Services. This will inform the future of the service. The closing date for completion is 16 December.

[https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NorwichParkandRide/?utm\\_source=Facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=Orlo](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NorwichParkandRide/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo)

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 20/11/23)