Broadland District Councillors Report for Postwick with Witton Parish Council Meeting - 4 September 2025

BDC will be hosting the Marriott's Way 10km run this year on Sunday 21 September. The run starts in Aylsham and follows the old railway line to finish in the marketplace at Reepham. Individuals or teams can participate. Local businesses can put teams of 4 forward for the Corporate Challenge. To sign up, visit the website: https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/leisure/marriotts-way-10k

BDC and SNC have received Gold Accreditation from the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) for their exceptional work to support survivors of domestic abuse. The network, with a multi-service approach, is making a difference to vulnerable individuals and families across Norfolk.
The link to the website for advice and information on domestic abuse is here: https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/domestic-abuse/what-is-domestic-abuse

BDC is developing a Biodiversity Strategy 2025-2030 which will build on the Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity Delivery Plan 2025-2028, to outline how it will achieve its core biodiversity objectives. There are 3 key priorities: Enhancing biodiversity on the land managed by BDC, Supporting biodiversity beyond BDC boundaries, and Inspiring and Influencing wider action.

Norwich is leading a project on becoming an Age-friendly Community, to enable people to age well and live a good later life. At present only Norwich and N Norfolk are represented regionally, but conversations are being had with BDC and SNC to potentially link in with this initiative. For more information see: https://www.ageuk.org.uk/norwich/about-us/agefriendlynorwich/

Between January 2024 and January 2025 BDC collected 420790 tonnes of food waste. This is a great achievement from residents and ensures that this waste is recycled rather than going to landfill.

BDC Cabinet have agreed to introduce a virtual agent for telephone and website Communications for an initial 12-month pilot scheme. This will be funded using money awarded from the government via Future Councils funding received by BDC in 2023 for these purposes. The service would be available to residents 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

At BDC Main Council on 24 July 2025 the following were approved:

The Quarter 4 2024/2025 Strategic Performance and Risk Report was approved.

The Annual Treasury Review Report for 2024/25 was reviewed and noted. This includes the activity of the Nutrient Mitigation Fund which was set up to fund mitigation projects to enable certain planning applications to go ahead. Capital Funding is provided to applicants on a loan basis to deliver projects with proven benefits. Smaller amounts of revenue grants are also available. To date £10.494m of Capital Loans and £470,000 revenue grant funding has been approved in order to enable over 3000 homes to be developed across the Breckland, Broadland, Norwich,

N Norfolk and S Norfolk area.

It was agreed to renew the existing district wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog fouling with the addition of limiting dog control by excluding dogs from enclosed play areas for children. The PSPO will be extended for a further three years from the date of expiry in October 2025. The PSPO requires a person in control of a dog to clean up after it when it fouls in a public space and to dispose of the waste in a suitable waste disposal receptacle. There are exemptions for people who have some disabilities. A public consultation on extending the PSPO was held for six weeks which ended on 11 June 2025, and as a result it has been amended to exclude dogs from enclosed children's play areas.

The Custom and Self-build Housing Supplementary Planning Document was formally adopted. This document provides more detail on policies relating to self and custom build housing to supplement the Greater Norwich Local Plan 2024. It also gives wider guidance on submitting a planning application for custom or self-build housing. It will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

The Postwick with Witton Neighbourhood Plan was adopted on condition that the local referendum scheduled for 7 August 2025 results in a positive outcome, in which case the Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory Development Plan (the referendum was subsequently successful with 92.7% of those who voted being supportive of the Plan).

Registration is open for the Solar Together programme. This is a group-buying scheme that helps homeowners and small business owners save on the cost of installing solar panels. For more information go to:
https://solartogether.co.uk/broadland/home

Veolia has launched this year's Sustainability Fund in partnership with BDC. Applications are invited to submit projects to improve their local environments and communities for grant funding of up to £1000. The closing date is 30 September 2025. For more information and how to apply go to:
https://www.veolia.co.uk/sustainability-fund
https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/sustainability-fund-empowers-broadland-residents-to-transform-their-community-with-10000-up-for-grabs

At the Overview and Scrutiny meeting in July the council received an update on the effectiveness of the Public Space Protection Order for vehicle related antisocial behaviour which was introduced in April 2024. The PSPO has so far been effective at reducing vehicle related ASB and the demands on both Police and council services. Regular monitoring will continue.

BDC is a member of the Norfolk Health and Wellbeing board which adopted a five-year Norfolk all age autism strategy in 2024. The strategy has 6 priority areas which are: to improve understanding and inclusion, to improve access to education and support transitions into adulthood, to support adults into employment, to tackle health and inequalities for autistic people, to build the right community support and to improve support in the criminal and youth justice system. This strategy is to be

incorporated within the Broadland Health and Wellbeing strategy.

The Broadland Food Innovation Centre has now been in operation for 2 years and is continuing to support growth, innovation and collaboration within the food and drink sector in Broadland. There have been some very positive testimonials from businesses involved.

The Broadland Waste and Recycling vehicle depot at Frettenham has been completely rebuilt and became operational in the first week of September. It has been built to be future proof with the ability to upgrade to fully electric vehicles. There are extensive solar panels on buildings and refuse vehicle parking areas with modern, energy efficient offices and staff amenities. The project has been delivered on budget.

The BDC Business Builder support programme is still open to applications for 2025/2026. Funding and support is available to support business start-ups and existing businesses to invest and grow. There are also Capital grants available of up to £20,000 per case for businesses in rural areas for plans to increase productivity, measures to significantly reduce the carbon footprint and diversifying into new income streams. A third round will be open to expression of interests on 1 October and will close on 12 November. The project is part-funded by the UK government. https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/business/broadland-business-builder-programme

Free Mental Health Awareness Training is available for residents and community groups in Broadland via the Mindful Towns and Villages project, designed to strengthen mental health support at the heart of local communities. Residents are given skills and confidence to recognise early signs of mental health challenges and offer timely, compassionate support. It is funded by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The next session will be held on Monday 8 September from 6.00 – 8.00 pm at Reedham Village Hall. There are further dates coming up in Costessey and Great Plumstead. For more information and to book go to: https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/support-wellbeing/mindful-towns-villages/how-to-get-involved

Broadland and South Norfolk ran Summer School Uniform Swap Shops throughout the school holidays. Parents were able to drop off or pick up good condition used uniform items. Due to a great community response, the Swap Shop at Acle Recreation centre will be extended until 9 September. The initiative has already helped many families prepare for the new school year while reducing textile waste. Last-minute school uniforms are available for free. Donations of clean, wearable school clothing are still welcome.

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 2/9/25)