Broadland District Councillors Report for Postwick with Witton Parish Council Meeting – 2 October 2025

On 1 September Cllr Laming attended the opening of the impressive new outdoor area at Snowy's Nursery and Pre-school in Brundall. Eleanor put her BDC Members Ward Grant of £1000 towards this project. A huge amount of work has gone in to make these improvements - congratulations to all those involved.

On 6 September in the evening Cllr Laming heard and observed vehicle related antisocial behaviour in the area of Broadland Gate and Broadland Business Parks. The police were already at the scene. If you do notice any incidents of vehicle related antisocial behaviour, or any other police related matter, please do report it. This can be done by phoning 101 or using an online form on https://www.norfolk.police.uk/area/your-area/local-policing-team-contact/triage/v2/contact-your-local-policing-team/

A BDC Extraordinary General Meeting was held on Thursday 18 September where councillors voted in favour of a 3 unitary model for government reform. Consultants were employed to look at the data and a considerable amount of information is available in the agenda papers which can be viewed here: https://democracy.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=1229&Ver=4

The model for 3 new councils covering East Norfolk, West Norfolk and Greater Norwich was submitted to the government for consideration by 26 September 2025. Now all councils have submitted their proposals, the following stages have been set out for the Local Government Reorganisation process:

Statutory consultation on Final Proposals: it is likely that the statutory consultation will encompass all Final Proposals submitted for Norfolk; a single unitary model submitted by Norfolk County Council, a two unitary model submitted by South Norfolk Council and our three unitary model.

Decision to implement a proposal: ministers and parliament will decide which, if any, proposal is to be implemented, with or without modification and subject to collective agreement across Government.

Making secondary legislation: The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) will prepare the necessary legislation, the Structural Change Order (SCO), for parliamentary approval. This will establish the new single tier of local government in Norfolk and make provision to abolish all the predecessor councils.

Transition period: existing councils will continue to deliver services and fulfil their duties until Vesting Day, whilst preparing to transfer all assets, functions and staff when the predecessor councils are dissolved and the new unitary authorities take on the legal duties and powers for providing

local government in Norfolk. Shadow unitary authorities, to be formed in May 2027, will develop Implementation Plans to include council tax harmonisation and preparing for the aggregation and disaggregation of services.

New unitary authorities go live: the Government is aiming for new authorities to go live on 1 April 2028 – Vesting Day. Elections to the new unitary councils, in the transition year ahead of Vesting Day, will ensure that those who will be responsible for government in the new authorities are accountable for decisions on transition arrangements. https://democracy.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/documents/s12618/Final Proposal for LGR in Norfolk.pdf

BDC is developing a Homelessness Mitigation Strategic work plan to address the projected increase in demand for services. This has three work streams which are: Prevention, Provision of temporary accommodation and Improving the options for people to move on from temporary accommodation.

BDC also has a Broadland and South Norfolk Homelessness and Rough Sleeper strategy for 2025 to 2030. 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.

BDC has developed a draft GNLP Policy 2 Sustainable Communities Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). 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.

BDC has developed a draft Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy Supplementary Planning Document. This is to go out soon 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. The plan is to publish the final SPD in early 2026. https://democracy.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=1183&Ver=4

BDC has also produced a Draft Design Code for BDC and SNC (South Norfolk Council). A 6 week public consultation on this code will commence in November. 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.

BDC has designed a new “Future for Nature Fund". This will provide funding 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 fund will be open to bids from the beginning of November. A workshop on the types of projects and how to plan and submit a bid will take place at Lingwood Village Hall on Wednesday 15 October.

Norfolk Warm Homes delivers Government funding across Norfolk to improve the energy efficiency of properties for eligible residents and BDC is an active partner in this. Over £3.9m will be allocated in the next 3 years to support private owner-occupiers and private tenants/landlords. For more information see:
Warm Homes: Local Grant – guidance for local authorities - GOV.UK.
https://norfolkwarmhomes.org.uk/
Letters will be sent to potentially eligible households in the Autumn to enhance uptake.

Cllr Davis still has £1,000 in his ward grant to fund small community projects. If you know of schemes that can benefit from funding please get in contact.

On 9 September Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Laming met some of the children, with their parents and carers, who had completed the Summer Reading Challenge at Brundall Library, to hand out their certificates and medals. Congratulations to all of those who completed the challenge.

Cllr Laming attended the Neighbourhood Policing Meeting on Wednesday 17 September which covered a range of areas east of Norwich including the Acle Team area which covers Brundall Ward. The priority for the next couple of months will be Road Safety. A Neighbourhood policing survey will be launched soon to help gather data to assist with decision making. This should be easy to complete and will be launched via a range of channels. The importance of Community Speedwatch, Neighbourhood Watch and reporting any incidents online was mentioned. The next meeting will be on 9 December 2025.
https://www.norfolk.police.uk/area/your-area/norfolk/broadland/acle/meetings-and-events/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area

Cllr Laming attended Blofield Courthouse on19 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.

Training courses are coming up in October 2025 at Carrowbreck House on Health and Safety in the Workplace (Level 3) and Marketing with Social Media. For more information go to https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/business/training-courses

The October Half Term Tots 2 Teens activity bookings are now 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.

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 29/9/25)