Broadland District Councillors Report for Postwick with Witton Parish Council Meeting – 5 February 2026

At BDC Main Council on 11 December 2025 the following were approved:

It was agreed to adopt the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme with no changes for the financial year 2026 to 2027. Council Tax Reduction is a discount scheme which reduces council tax bills to a more affordable level for low-income households.

It was agreed to adopt the Broadland Biodiversity Strategy for 2025-2030.
The strategy builds on the Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity Delivery Plan 2025-2028 to outline how it will achieve its core biodiversity objectives and meet its statutory duties under the Environment Act 2021.
There are 3 key priorities:
Enhancing biodiversity on the land managed by BDC
Supporting biodiversity beyond BDC boundaries
Inspiring and Influencing wider action.

Baseline ecological surveys will be done on 10 council owned sites to produce 5-year enhancement plans for each site. Nature recovery projects in the district will be supported, and the planning system will ensure Biodiversity Net Gain is implemented.
The Broadland Biodiversity Strategy for 2025-2030 is now on the BDC website.
The link to the Strategy is here:
https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/environment/trees-biodiversity/south-norfolk-council-and-broadland-district-council-biodiversity-strategies-2025-30

BDC agreed the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy required under the Licensing Act 2003. This went out for consultation for a 6-week period from July to September 2025 and some amendments were made as a result. The final statement will come into effect early in 2026.

The BDC response to the current consultation on the proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Norfolk and Suffolk was approved.

It was noted that the Chief of Staff and Monitoring Officer will be taking up a new position at the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. It was agreed to appoint Sinead Carey as the Monitoring Officer for BDC from 5 January 2026.

The SNC and BDC Handy Person Scheme was named Handyperson of the Year in Manchester at the National Healthy Housing Awards 2025. This recognition celebrates the impact the scheme has in improving residents' safety, comfort, and wellbeing at home. For more information about the Handy Person Scheme go to:
https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/housing/housing-advice-support/handyperson

The Draft Greater Norwich Joint Five-year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2026 to 2031 and the Annual Growth Programme 2026-2027 is coming to BDC for approval.

It is drawn up by the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) and provides an evidence base for the allocation of funding from the Infrastructure Investment Fund which is pooled from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) provided from new development.
It will come back to the GNGB for final agreement on 12 March. A total amount of £3,021,733.25 has been allocated to 6 projects.

The projects included in Broadland are:
The Blofield Park Community Centre £500,000
The Nest Padel courts project £150,000

Norfolk Environmental Credits (NEC) is a not-for-profit venture between 5 Norfolk Councils developed in 2023 to address the housing backlog caused by Nutrient Neutrality. By November 2025 it has unlocked the development of 2400 homes. Norfolk is expected to see a growth of 11% in population over the next 20 years.
https://www.norfolkinsight.org.uk/jsna/population/
For more information on NEC see:
https://hive.greenfinanceinstitute.com/gfihive/toolkit/developing-a-business-case-and-financial-model/norfolk-environmental-credits/

BDC Cabinet has approved an updated Safeguarding Policy for BDC.
This follows a full review of the current safeguarding arrangement and an update in procedures.

BDC Cabinet has approved a new policy for Waste Services. This reflects current and upcoming legislation in relation to the government's waste and recycling reforms and sets clear service standards for the district.
Councils need to consider the introduction of Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility payments and Simpler Recycling measures.

The Norfolk Warm Homes Team and BDC Communities Team was in Brundall on 28 January with the BDC Community Engagement Vehicle which gives interested residents' information on support provided by Broadland District Council.
For more information see the attached links:
Community Engagement Van - Help Hub Van | Broadland and South Norfolk
Community Capacity - Support for community groups | Broadland and South Norfolk
General Help Hub - Getting help | Broadland and South Norfolk
Warm Homes Team (Norfolk Warm Homes)

The Cantley and District Women's Institute has been awarded a Keep it Going grant. The funds of £300 will go towards venue hire costs and speakers. Congratulations!

The Broads Authority is running a consultation on a Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document. One of the areas covered by this is the Yare Valley with sections in the parishes of Brundall Ward. The draft document can be viewed here, and the consultation closes on 9 February 2026. We have submitted comments
https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work/transparency/consultations

BDC received 15 applications for funding through the Future for Nature Fund (FFMF) and 11 schemes will be awarded funding via this route. Another 3 will be funded through another route, so 14 schemes have been approved in total.

The BDC Customer Experience Project continues to progress, and an update was provided to the Overview and Scrutiny committee on 20 January. The project aims to improve customer service, modernise service delivery and reduce operational costs through a new digital platform. The procurement exercise has been completed, and the new service is being developed. It is expected the service will be in use by the end of March 2026.

The finalists for the 2026 Broadland and South Norfolk Business Awards have been announced. The winners will be revealed at an awards evening on the 18 March. The categories include Business Growth, Business Innovation, Employer of the Year, Environmental Impact, Food and Drink producer of the Year, Insurance Financial or Professional Services, Manufacturing and Engineering Business of the Year, New Business, Small Business, Tourism, Pub of the Year, Retailer of the Year, and Business Builder exemplar. For more information see: https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/finalists-announced-for-the-2026-broadland-and-south-norfolk-business-awards

BDC will be running Tots2Teens sessions in the February Half Term Holidays. For more information and to book go to https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/community/tots-2-teens

BDC is looking to see whether residents are interested in hands-on workshops teaching sewing, mending and upcycling skills. If you would be interested, please do fill in this questionnaire: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=ikQbvZ9SBEqkIb1K4febsFeZBRiBRMFIkOZZBN8TOH1UNDVLR1daUlc5ODAyWVhHOUJWQ0k2VFI2RS4u&route=shorturl

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 4/2/25