Broadland District Councillors Report for Postwick with Witton Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 5 March 2026

Elections to Norfolk County Council seats will be held on 7 May 2026. The next elections for the principal authorities in Norfolk are expected in May 2027 for Councillors to sit on the Shadow Unitary Authorities. The Structural Change Order (SCO) creates the legislation needed to form the Shadow Authorities and is expected in Autumn 2026. One matter in the SCO is the Schedule of Elections, and Broadland DC is asking for the shadow authority elections to be at the same time as the town/parish elections in 2027 in order to simplify and streamline the process and reduce election costs. The government decision on the number of unitary authorities is expected to be announced on or before 25 March 2026. The aim is to get this announcement out in Norfolk and Suffolk before the pre-election period. The result will then lead to the formation of the structure of the new Mayoral Combined Authority. When the Shadow Authorities come in there will be a Section 24 notice enacted to control what the existing authorities can do.

UNICEF has declared 2026 as the Year of the Volunteer. There is a drive across the County to promote this and host a festival of volunteering in June 2026. There will be an event at the Forum in Norwich and other links and publicity involved. Brundall Parish Council are holding a "Thank You" event for volunteers on 12 July from 2.00 pm at the Memorial Hall.

The next Neighbourhood Policing Meeting for the Acle area will be held on Tuesday 17 March from 6.00 pm. The location is to be confirmed. For information see: https://www.norfolk.police.uk/area/your-area/norfolk/broadland/acle/meetings-and-events/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area

The Greater Norwich authorities (Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council, working with Norfolk County Council) are preparing to review the Greater Norwich Local Plan which was adopted in March 2024. The review is prompted by national planning reform and the government's new method for calculating housing need. In addition, the government has introduced a new plan-making system, which changes the way local plans are prepared. As part of the early preparation stage of reviewing the GNLP, the Greater Norwich authorities have opened a Call for Sites. Landowners, developers, and other interested parties have been invited to submit sites that may be suitable for housing, employment or other uses. The Greater Norwich authorities will then assess submissions to identify which sites may be suitable to allocate in the reviewed local plan. This will form the basis of a future public consultation. The Call for sites ends on 23 March 2026.
For more information see https://gnlp.oc2.uk/

BDC has increased its stock of temporary accommodation. This is saving the council money as temporary accommodation provides income from rent as well as reducing bills for bed and breakfast accommodation. The council has 53 temporary accommodation units with more coming online in March 2026.

The BDC business regulatory support hub team offers assistance and advice to newly registered businesses in the district.

https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/business/business-regulatory-support-hub

Cllr Davis has funded repairs and improvements to the community telephone box in Postwick using his members ward grant. The box is used as a community library offering books, puzzles and games to residents of all ages.

Cllr Davis has assisted with provision of signage to deter fly tipping which has been an issue in Postwick on Ferry Lane and Oaks Lane.

BDC celebrated and supported National Apprenticeship Week 2026 by interviewing some of the apprentices at BDC and SNC who explained how their skills have developed and their careers have been shaped. For more information on opportunities at the councils go to:
https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/work-skills/apprenticeships

At BDC Main Council on 19 February 2026 the following were approved:

The Revenue Budget for 2026/27 was agreed. There will be no rise in Council Tax and Broadland is one of the very few councils who are not raising tax in the coming financial year.

The Band D level of Council Tax is to remain at the same level as it was in 2024/2025 and 2025/26 which is £134.91 for General Expenditure. The Band D level of Council Tax is lower than it was last year at £0.83 for Special Expenditure.

The Capital Strategy and Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2030/31 were approved. The total cost of the 5-year capital programme comes to just over £15m and will be continually reviewed to ensure the council obtains value for money.

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2026/27 was approved.

BDC approved an updated Safeguarding Policy. This follows a full review of the current safeguarding arrangements and an update in procedures. The updated safeguarding policy will be published on the BDC website.

BDC 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 now need to consider the introduction of Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility payments and Simpler Recycling measures. Clear standards are set out for contamination, side waste, container provision and assisted collections.

The Greater Norwich 5-year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2026-2031 and the Annual Growth Programme 2026/27 were approved. The projects funded by the pooled Community Infrastructure Levy in Broadland are:
The Blofield Park Community Centre £500,000
The Nest Padel courts project £150,000

BDC agreed to approve and adopt the new Council Delivery Plan 2026 to 2028 which supports the Council Plan 2024 to 2028. The two-year delivery plan gives detail on the project that BDC will deliver to achieve its vision and priorities and runs from April 2026.

BDC agreed to establish two planning related working groups. These include an Enforcement Oversight board and a Development Management Review panel.

BDC agreed to adopt the Rackheath Neighbourhood Plan (Revised for 2024/25) with the examiner's modifications. The plan can be viewed here: https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/asset-library/1.-rackheath-np-review-submission-plan.pdf

BDC agreed to adopt an updated Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption strategy which was last approved in 2023. The Strategy sets out the approach to minimise the risk of fraud and corruption occurring, and the actions it will take if fraudulent activity is suspected and identified.

Cllr Davis attended a meeting at the end of February at Lingwood Village Hall which gave an update on the current progress of the A47 dualling project and upcoming planned works including the installation of new bridge structures. Traffic will be directed onto the new road between Blofield and North Burlingham from 16 March. It will not use the full dual carriageway but will be single carriageway. This will allow the work on the bridges and slip roads to be completed. It is estimated the dual carriageway will be fully open from 6 May 2026.

Broadland District Council's community Annual Big Litter Pick is now open. Community groups, schools and businesses can take part between now and 31 May. All registered groups will receive £50 for taking part and helping to keep the district clean, and 10 participating groups will have the chance to receive £250 to reinvest in their community. For more details go to: https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/keeping-streets-clean/volunteer-litter-pick-area/big-broadland-litter-pick

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 1/3/25