Broadland District Councillors Report for Postwick with Witton Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 1 April 2026

Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood parish council has made an application to BDC to designate a Neighbourhood area for the purposes of developing a Neighbourhood Plan and this has now been approved.

The BDC Dog Warden Service has received the RSPCA Gold Paw Print Award for their service provision for the fourth consecutive year. This recognises excellence in the stray dog service provided by the council

The BDC Handy Person Service won National Handy Person Service of the Year at the Healthy Housing Awards. The service operates across South Norfolk and Broadland and provides minor repairs, falls prevention equipment, safety fittings and domestic abuse sanctuary scheme support for residents.

On 11 March BDC hosted a Business Breakfast for over 100 business owners. BDC is committed to supporting local enterprises in the district. Since the launch of the Business Builder programme in 2022 it has supported 472 businesses and awarded £2.3m in grants.

On 6 March the Chair of Broadland District Council, Cllr Caroline Karimi-Ghovanlou, hosted a Civic Reception at the Horizon Centre, celebrating her year in office and highlighting the Council's ongoing initiatives. It featured a dance performance by the Norwich Bengali Association, alongside a charity auction and raffle. The annual event raised vital funds for Norwich Door to Door, which provides essential transport services for elderly and disabled residents across the district. Overall, £3,425.16 has been raised for the charity during the civic year.

A new Let's Go! Visitor economy initiative will launch in Summer 2026. This will showcase beautiful walking routes across the districts and highlight nearby independent businesses to boost visitor numbers and tourism.

13 community led environmental projects across Broadland have been awarded funding through the BDC Future for Nature Fund, with additional support from some Section 106 developer contributions taking the total investment to over £60,000. The fund supports a wide range of initiatives designed to restore natural habitats, capture carbon and improve public access to green spaces, empowering communities to play an active role in protecting and enhancing the district's natural environment.
Congratulations to all those awarded grants in Brundall Ward which include:

Brundall Parish Council - awarded a grant of £5000 to create a pond at the Countryside Park
Cantley Parish Council - awarded a grant of £4700 to restore an existing pond forming part of a circular walking route.
Strumpshaw Parish Council - awarded a grant of £3440 to create a 2km circular walk around Buckenham Woods

A project to Facilitate Adult Social Care Transformation by Implementing Local Area Coordination was approved by Cabinet on 17 March 2026. This will use funding from Norfolk County Council of £96,000 to employ 2 Full Time Equivalent Local Area Coordinators for 2 years fixed term to serve Aylsham, Thorpe St Andrew and surrounding areas as part of a pilot scheme with a view to wider roll out across Norfolk should it be successful. Local Area Coordinators are producing positive results in improving health outcomes in other parts of the country. They work in neighbourhoods with individuals and families taking a longer-term view to build resilience, reduce isolation and prevent crises. They will co-ordinate work with existing structures and professionals to achieve this.

On 6 April 2026 the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations will come into force. This legislation brings in a licensing scheme setting strict rules to ensure that only private keepers who can provide zoo level welfare standards will be able to keep primates. All private primate keepers and people proposing to keep a primate will be required to hold a licence valid for a maximum of three years and undergo reassessment to renew their permission to keep their animals. BDC will be receiving and determining primate licence applications, monitoring and enforcing compliance if needed. To date, the Licensing Team has not been approached by anyone seeking to licence a primate currently in their private ownership or possession.

The Norfolk County Council elections are due to take place on Thursday 7 May. The referendum for the newly revised Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan will also take place on that day. BDC has issued guidelines and restrictions on decision making and publicity during the pre-election period in the run up to During the pre-election period, the Council must also take particular care to ensure that its resources are not used in a way that could be perceived as supporting any political party or candidate.

The notice of election was published on 27 March 2026. For more information go to: https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/council/elections/upcoming-elections/norfolk-county-council-election-7-may-2026
The deadline for registering to vote is 20 April 2026
To register to vote go to: https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

The Greater Norwich authorities (Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council, working with Norfolk County Council) are reviewing 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. It is expected that the process this time will be faster with the use of digital technology. The Call for Sites where landowners, developers, and other interested parties were invited to submit sites that may be suitable for housing, employment or other uses ends on 23 March 2026.

The achievements of businesses across South Norfolk and Broadland were celebrated on 18 March at the South Norfolk and Broadland Business Awards 2026, held at Norwich City Football Club. The event was sponsored by Birketts LLP and

brought together business leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators from across the two districts. To view the list of winners go to: https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/businesses-score-big-at-2026-awards

Broadland District Council will open applications for its 2026 Community Grant Scheme (CGS) on 1 April, with £50,000 available to support local community led projects. The scheme provides grants of £1,000 to £15,000 to help deliver substantial initiatives that enhance local facilities or improve residents' quality of life. All applications will be reviewed by the CGS Panel, which will meet on 8 July 2026 to allocate funding. There will also be a further opportunity for groups to apply to the scheme later in the year.

The next Community Links meeting will be held on Thursday 16 April from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm at the Horizon Business Centre, Norwich NR7 0WF. The meeting will be focusing on promoting positive mental health and emotional well-being in young people, and there will be an opportunity for networking with refreshments. To sign up to attend (free of charge) go to: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-links-networking-session-april-2026-tickets-1983266527572?aff=oddtdtcreator

The Greater Norwich Growth Board (BDC is in the GNGB partnership) has published its third annual update on the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy projects it is supporting. The update for 2025 outlines the work done to tackle inactivity and reduce inequalities through upgrades to community facilities such as the Aylsham Gym and Fitness Hub in Broadland. For more information go to: https://www.greaternorwichgrowth.org.uk/article/67058/Physical-Activity-and-Sport-Strategy

Broadland District Council (BDC) has handed over the management of Broadland Country Park to Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) after successfully establishing the park's infrastructure BDC will remain a key stakeholder while NWT will bring its extensive experience in managing land to benefit both nature and local communities. The partners are significantly expanding Broadland Country Park by purchasing Drayton Drewray. This will add an additional 114 acres of land to the south of the site, effectively doubling the size of Broadland Country Park. New paths will be created for walkers and cyclists, alongside conservation work designed to increase biodiversity across the landscape. Habitats such as native broadleaf woodland and heathland will be restored and expanded

On 25 March 2026 A written ministerial statement was made to Parliament, setting out the Secretary of State's decision to implement the proposal for 3 unitary councils to be established in Norfolk. Secondary legislation, which will be subject to Parliamentary approval, will now be taken forward to abolish existing councils, establish new councils and make transitional arrangements. Accompanying this announcement, a decision letter was sent to Norfolk Council leaders which can be viewed by clicking on this link. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-reorganisation-decision-letter-to-norfolk-council-leaders The 3 unitary proposal was the one endorsed by BDC together with other district councils. BDC

will now work together with other Norfolk councils to create the best outcome for residents within the parameters of the new model.

At BDC Main Council on 26 March 2026 the following were approved:

The acceleration of the Council's organisational net zero target from 2030 to 2028 was approved. This is backed up by evidence in the most recent carbon-footprint report. The Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity Plan will be updated accordingly. The Council's total carbon footprint is 425 tons of CO2e which is at present the lowest of any local authority in Norfolk.
The report can be viewed here:
https://democracy.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=1067&Ver=4

The Draft Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy Supplementary Planning Document was formally adopted. It is to be used by developers when designing and proposing new developments and 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. The recent 6-week consultation has resulted in an improved introduction and some comments made by responders will be passed on to the Greater Norwich Growth Board.

The Draft Sustainable Communities (GNLP Policy 2) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted**.**
This expands on the existing Greater Norwich Local Plan (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. Following the recent 6-week consultation some details required for matters such as water efficiency are clearer, and improvements have been made to the document's resources list.

The Broadland Health and Wellbeing Partnership (HWP) Strategy for 2026-2029 was adopted**.** A complete review of the previous strategy was done using new data to guide future plans and assist with external funding bids. Broadland HWP brings over 25 organisations together and has an Annual public health grant of £100,000. It aims to improve health and reduce inequalities and has managed a range of projects including Stroke Reach, Community Engagement Van, Social Prescribing in Secondary Care, Help through Crisis, World Café Events, Active NoW expansion, Mindful Towns and Villages and a Diet and Nutrition project.

The BDC Programme of Meetings for May 2026 to May 2027 was approved and this can be viewed on the website here under agenda item 10
https://democracy.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=1067&Ver=4

The Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27 was approved. It will be published on the Council's website from 31 March 2026.

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 30/3/25