Broadland District Councillors Report for Postwick with Witton Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 1 October 2026

The Building Futures project operating in Broadland and South Norfolk has supported 97 apprentices in the last two years by assisting employers to take on new apprentices or upskill existing staff. It will now be funded by both councils until March 2028. For more information go to:
https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/scheme-that-has-supported-almost-100-apprenticeship-is-extended

New Local Area Co-ordinators have been introduced to help people remain independent and connected to their communities by getting appropriate support. They are part of the Help Hub service and the first ones have been allocated to Thorpe St Andrew, Hellesdon, Sprowston and Aylsham. For more information on services provided by the Help Hub go to:
https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/help-hub

BDC is offering a free Community Climate Action Training course for parish councils, village hall committees and community groups across the district. The course has been developed to help local communities gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to take practical environmental action and is accredited by the Carbon Literacy Project. Participants will gain practical ideas that can be applied within their communities and will receive Carbon Literate accreditation upon completion of the full-day course. Training dates are on Monday 2 November 2026 9:00am to 4:30pm or Tuesday 17 November 2026 9:00am to 4:30pm at the Horizon Centre NR7 0WF. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. To book a place contact environmentalstrategy@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk
For more information go to:
https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/environment/community-climate-action-training

Over 800 volunteers from 36 local groups and organisations got involved in the Broadland Big Litter Pick this year which ran from February to May 2026. They collected around 350 bags of litter which is approximately 2.5 tonnes of waste. Groups were entered into a prize draw to share a £4000 community fund. All groups received some money to help support their organisation. Broadland District Council's litter picking equipment is available throughout the year for community groups wishing to organise their own clean-up events. For more information see:
https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/keeping-streets-clean/volunteer-litter-pick-area

The Business Builder Fund for 2026/2027 is open. This programme is aimed at supporting businesses to invest and grow to boost the local economy. Help is provided for those who are looking to start a business, those whose business is less than 2 years old and more established businesses who are looking to grow and develop. Support provided includes grants, support from the economic development team and training. BDC is funding this locally after the national provision was not renewed. For more information go to:
https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/business/broadland-business-builder-programme

The Strategic performance and Risk report for Quarter 1 for 2026 to 2027 was reviewed and approved by Cabinet on 15 September.

The Finance report for Quarter 1 was also endorsed and Cabinet approved £30,000 of funding to support the Business Builder and apprentice support initiatives.

A draft Broadland Housing Strategy and Housing Evidence Base has been drawn up and will soon go out for public consultation. This strategy provides a joined up strategic framework to support and connect work which is already in progress. The overall vision is to enable the right homes to be provided in the right places, to improve the quality, standards and sustainability of existing homes and to ensure that residents live safe, healthy, independent lives in homes that meet their needs.

The BDC Complaints Policy has been reviewed and updated to improve customer access and choice, improve clarity, fairness and accessibility, enhanced transparency and communication, and ensure that compliance is with the Ombudsman code.

BDC is conducting a review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle policy (taxi licensing policy) and conditions document. It was last reviewed in 2021, and the new draft takes into account the legislation and updated guidance. This is now out for a public consultation for 8 weeks until 16 November 2026. The key proposed changes are highlighted, and it is hoped that the new policy and conditions document will take effect from 1 April 2027. To read the proposed revisions and for information on submitting a response go to: https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/licensing/licences/licensing-policies/taxi-and-private-hire/broadland-district-council-review-of-hackney-carriage-and-private-hire-policy-and-conditions

In December 2025, the government published a strategy called a National Plan to end Homelessness. Councils must publish a Homelessness Strategy at least once every 5 years together with a homelessness action plan. The BDC Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2025 to 2030 was adopted on 23 October 2025. A related Homelessness Action Plan has now been developed which includes targets up to Autumn 2028. These targets meet the Local Outcome Framework targets recently created by the government. The aim is to strengthen prevention and reduce the experience of homelessness and rough sleeping.
A Housing Intelligence Data Hub will be set up by BDC to provide data. When these documents have been adopted, they will be published on the BDC website.

The Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy which was approved in May 2024 has been updated to meet new national requirements and provide further detail.

A quarterly update has also been provided on the BDC Homelessness Mitigation Strategic work plan. The work plan was developed to address the predicted continued increase in demand for housing over the next 5 years.

A report came to the BDC Overview and Scrutiny committee on 22 September 2026 on broadband and mobile connectivity in the district. Broadland benefits from

generally strong superfast broadband but the position is more mixed for full fibre gigabit capable broadband and mobile services.
Mobile 4G coverage is generally available across the district, but reliability can differ according to operator and location, and 5G coverage is less extensive. A recent 2-year mobile coverage survey has been completed using bin lorries in the county. It showed that basic coverage is below the statistics reported by Ofcom. There is still work to do to increase gigabyte capable and full fibre networks and address mobile coverage weaknesses. The full report can be read here: https://democracy.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=161&MId=1364&Ver=4

An annual review of the Broadland Food Innovation Centre was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny committee. It is now in its fourth year of operation.
The centre supports growth and innovation within the food and drink sector and is managed by BDC. It provides 13 food grade units of various sizes with additional facilities. It is in a strong operating position at present.

An update on the Broadland Country Park Visitor Centre and Facilities Project was given to the Overview and Scrutiny committee. The project to deliver a new visitor centre and café with improved parking, access and visitor facilities is progressing with an expected completion date of late October 2026. It provides significant green infrastructure for the district for recreation, biodiversity and community use.

Over 430 runners participated in the BDC annual Marriott's Way 10 km run from Aylsham to Reepham on 20 September. BDC Chairman, Cllr Adrian Tipple, presented medals and congratulated participants on their achievement. For more information on the results go to: https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/marriotts-way-10k-draws-hundreds-for-another-winning-year

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 28/9/26)