

Broadland District Councillor Report for Strumpshaw Parish Council – 18 November 2025

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.

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 Reorganisation.

Cantley Sugar factory is working closely with National Highways to minimise disruption to local traffic routes during the sugar beet campaign. The diversion route takes traffic on the B1140 when driving to and from the factory from the A47 and there is now additional signage in place to stop lorries using Beighton Road. Do report any incidences of traffic to/from the site not following the recommended diversion. A photo of the vehicle, or a note of the registration plate, will help to identify it as quickly as possible so action can be taken. Details can be sent to communications@britishsugar.com

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation:

The various proposals for unitary models have now been submitted from all the councils in Norfolk. The government will consider whether they are compliant proposals, and those that comply will go out to consultation with the relevant statutory consultees. The government minister will decide in the first quarter of 2026. A Structural Change Order will then be enacted, which will inform how the process progresses and is delivered.

Some questions have been raised about how to best serve the unparished areas. A neighbourhood governance model is being considered which should provide more guidance.

Elections to the Shadow Unitary/(ies) will be in May 2027 with vesting of the new authority (ies) in May 2028. The expectation is that the District Council Elections which would have been in May 2027 will not go ahead.

Once the Shadow Unitary/(ies) are set up, any big decisions eg major contracts will not be taken by the district councils but by the new shadow authority/(ies).

The aim is to ensure that the shadow unitary/(ies) will be ready so that after Vesting Day it/they will be ready to take safe and legal decisions.

Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk

Suffolk County Council and Norfolk County Council have both agreed to move ahead with the government programme. The process will now be enabled using a Structural

Change Order and elections for the Mayor held in May 2026 at the same time as elections to Norfolk County Council.

The Managing Director of BDC was appointed as the Local Returning Officer for the combined county authority mayoral elections.

Cllr Laming attended the Integrated Care System District Council meeting on 9 October. Reports were received on the large number of projects being carried out by the 8 Health and Wellbeing Boards. Broadland provides the Help Hub, Social Prescribing, the Community Engagement Van, and supports the Social Moments Enterprise and Mindful Towns and Villages. For more information on the Help Hub see: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/help-hub>

BDC is now offering Winter Pressure Grants for up to £500 for community organisations which put forward an initiative to help support residents who are struggling with the costs of living. There is limited funding so do apply as soon as possible. For more details and to apply go to:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/community/funding/winter-pressures-grant>

Brundall Memorial Hall has been awarded a BDC Winter Pressure Grant of £288 which will go towards funding the costs of their community café. Congratulations!

Cllr Davis attended a successful district recycling event for small electrical items and textiles on 10 October, to help residents to reduce waste and recycle more. The electrical items collected are sent to a contractor in Costessey. 75% of materials in old electrical items can be recycled and used in new equipment. Textiles can be reused or recycled and any that cannot be are shredded into fibres ready to make new fabric.

Cllr Jess Royal and Cllr Eleanor Laming attended the BDC Community Awards on Thursday 16 October at the Royal Norwich Golf Club as there were some amazing nominees in our wards (Burlingham Ward and Brundall Ward) who were;

The Shoulder of Mutton Strumpshaw – Winner of the Business in the Community Award

Tiny Tots - Shortlisted for the Community Organisation of the Year

Yare Valley Churches – Shortlisted for the Community Organisation of the Year Award

Roger Parsons – Volunteers for Age UK Norfolk – Shortlisted for Volunteer of the Year

Bryce Crane – Volunteers extra hours at Broadland Police Station – Nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award

It was fantastic to meet everyone and well done for all the wonderful work you are doing!

Broadland Country Park near Horsford is being upgraded. There will be a new visitor centre and parking to improve its accessibility. Indoor and outdoor seating will be provided, and the new building will be on the edge of the woodland to reduce impact on trees. The centre will have facilities for those with disabilities and visiting

school groups. Income will help fund park improvements and projects. 6 more acres of new woodland will be added to expand the park.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/leisure/play-areas-open-spaces-public-assets/broadlandcountrypark/broadland-country-park>

Cllr Davis attended the Broadland Country Park Breaking Ground ceremony for the park visitor centre on Monday 20 October which signalled the beginning of construction. The centre is expected to open in Spring next year.

On 15 October Cllr Davis attended a workshop at Lingwood Village Hall on the new BDC Future for Nature Fund. This is now open for applications from Town and Parish Councils, community groups and charities. It will provide grants of up to £5000 for 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 closing date for applications has been extended to the 5th December 2025. To apply go to:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/environment/broadlands-a-future-for-natural-fund>

The BDC Community Engagement Van (CEVan) visited Cantley Village Hall on 22 October, while the Social Moments Enterprise were running family wellbeing activities (Social Moments is an enterprise which supports Norfolk families through food, play and connection). The Help Hub Van provides support and advice relating to council tax, debt, housing, employment, training and other issues.

BDC and SNC are inviting local businesses, charities and community groups to take advantage of the CEVan, a fully equipped, mobile outreach and exhibition van now available for hire. CEVan is fitted with Wi-Fi, a television, heating, solar power, a kettle, fridge, and soft furnishings, making it ideal for community engagement, promotional events, and outreach activities. The van can also be branded with custom display wings and awning panels, allowing organisations to create a personalised presence at events. To find out more and to hire the CEVan or to invite the Help Hub to attend an event see:

www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/support-wellbeing/community-engagement-van

BDC Cabinet agreed on 21 October to extend the contract for the processing of dry recyclables collected in Broadland to 31 March 2030. This contract is with Norse Environmental Waste Services Ltd, and the contract currently covers all of Norfolk's Waste Collection Authorities. A strategic review was undertaken as there are policy and legal changes due to come in nationally. These include Simpler Recycling, Extended Producer Responsibility and a Deposit Return Scheme due in 2027.

On the 10th November, Cllr Davis attended the official opening of the new, totally rebuilt, Broadland Waste & Recycling Depot at Frettenham operated and managed by the BDC assigned waste contractor, Veolia. This energy-efficient facility powered by solar panels & battery storage, has an independent water supply and treatment plant, modern office and staff facilities, a state-of-the-art workshop, and future

proofed for a transition to electric waste collection & recycling vehicles. The project was delivered on time and within budget.

BDC has launched a new waste app, called 'Broadland', which is available to download from both the Apple App Store and Google Play. This provides an upgraded, more reliable and cost-effective service for residents with: Personalised bin collection reminders and recycling advice; Notifications tailored to specific areas; Easy reporting of missed bins and fly-tipping; Quick links to book a visit to Norfolk County Council's recycling centres; Access to sign up for services such as garden waste and bulky collections.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/bin-collections-and-app/broadland-bin-collection-app>

At BDC Main Council on 23 October 2025 the following were approved:

The fourth version of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF) was endorsed and BDC is to remain a signatory to it. The NSPF is used to help prepare future local plans and BDC is a signatory to it together with other Norfolk councils. The updated NSPF could form the basis for a future Spatial Development Strategy which is a high-level strategic planning document that will be produced by the new Mayoral Combined County Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk when it is set up. There are updates on topics such as Nutrient Neutrality, Biodiversity Net Gain, Local Nature Recovery Strategies and matters linking to Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, the NHS Integrated Care Board, Water Resources East, Active Norfolk and the Marine Management Organisation.

The Broadland and South Norfolk Homelessness and Rough Sleeper strategy for 2025 to 2030 was adopted. 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.

The Annual Report of the Audit Committee was presented.

It was noted that the political balance of the council has changed. There are 47 councillors in the following proportion: Conservatives 19, Liberal Democrats 14, Labour 7, Green 4, Reform UK 1, Independent 1 and Independent Conservative 1.

It was agreed to approve some changes to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. These will be reviewed and updated at least every 2 years.

Broadland District Council has awarded £60,571 to support a range of community-led initiatives across the district via the Community Grant Scheme. Brundall Scouts were awarded £15,000 to refurbish the Scout Hut toilets, creating unisex facilities with disabled access. For more information on grant funding go to:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/community/funding>

Nominations are now open for the BDC and SNC 2026 Business Awards which celebrate the achievements and innovation of local businesses. Ten categories are open for self-nomination and members of the public can vote for Retailer of the Year and Pub of the year. 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 and Tourism Business of the year. The closing date is 12 December 2025. Winners will be announced on the 18 March 2026 at an awards event at Norwich City Football Club.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/business/broadland-and-south-norfolk-business-awards/categories>

The draft BDC and South Norfolk Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is now open for consultation. This important document sets out clear, visual guidance for creating beautiful, successful places across the district, with a strong focus on landscaping, local character, and distinctive materials. The consultation ends on 8 December 2025. To view the document and comment go to:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning/future-development/supplementary-planning-documents/broadland-and-south-norfolk-district-wide-design-codes>

Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council are working together on 2 new draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which support policies in the GNLP. Public consultations on the GNLP Policy 2 Sustainable Communities SPD and the Implementation of the Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy SPD are open now, and end at 5pm on Friday 19 December 2025. Norwich City Council are coordinating the responses to both of these consultations on behalf of all 3 authorities. Following the consultation, responses will be reviewed and where appropriate amendments will be made before the SPDs are considered for adoption by each council in early 2026. Follow the link to review the strategies and have your say: <https://orlo.uk/PvkMt>

BDC is collecting new toys and gifts donated by residents and businesses across the district, to be distributed to local families so that more children can experience the magic of Christmas. Donations will be accepted until 30 November 2025. To get involved, click through to the website: <https://orlo.uk/axl7h>

The Police Public Voice team has launched the first ever Neighbourhood Policing Survey to find out what matters most to residents. Feedback could help shape the future of local policing and help build safer neighbourhoods. The survey only takes 5 minutes or so to fill out: <https://orlo.uk/qmHf3>

The Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner, Sarah Taylor, has grant funding opportunities available through her office. These are to support a range of community projects aimed at promoting cohesion and communication - key factors in reducing crime. Further details about available funding can be found here: <https://www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk/services-we-provide/grant-funding/>

St Laurence Church in Brundall was decorated beautifully by the community for the Remembrance Day service on Sunday 9 November 2025. Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming attended and laid a wreath on behalf of Broadland District Council.

Cllr Laming attended the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System Conference at the Kings Centre in Norwich which looked at the new model for Neighbourhood Working and how services can work better together to build a pro-active health care system that will transform people's health, wellbeing and care.

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 17/11/25)