

Broadland District Councillor Report for Strumpshaw Parish Council – 20 January 2026

BDC and SNC are inviting local businesses, charities and community groups to take advantage of 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 professional and personalised presence at events. Organisations interested in hiring CEVan or inviting the Help Hub to attend an event can find out more and book by visiting: www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/support-wellbeing/community-engagement-van

The BDC Business Regulatory Support Hub is available to answer questions on business regulations and to make compliance simpler. It provides advice on licensing, permits, or growing a business, and can now be contacted on What's App <https://orlo.uk/nF89L> as well as by phone or email. 0345 034 8691 businesshub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

BDC is consulting on a draft revised policy document entitled the Sex Establishment and Sexual Entertainment Venue policy. The consultation ends on 25 February 2026 and the link to the documents is here:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/licensing/licences/licensing-policies/sex-establishment-and-sexual-entertainment-venues-legislation-and-policy>

At present BDC does not have any affected premises located within the district and is not aware of any pending applications.

BDC and SNC have launched a new Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2025-2030. This outlines a plan to tackle the challenges faced through increasing support for the in-house rough sleeper team and introducing greater housing support for care leavers. More temporary accommodation and affordable housing will be provided in the context of increasing need. Council-owned temporary accommodation units provide good quality secure housing and reduce the reliance on expensive bed and breakfast accommodation.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

The government has postponed the Mayoral Elections for Norfolk and Suffolk which were due in 2026 and said they will now be held in May 2028. This will have an impact on planning for the Strategic Development Strategy for Norfolk and Suffolk and probably on funding.

There have been no changes to the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme.

The decision by the government on the number of Unitary Authorities is expected in March 2026. A Structural Change Order will then be enacted, which will inform how the process progresses and is delivered.

The Shadow Unitary Authority elections will be held in May 2027. Those councillors elected will be responsible for overseeing the change over to the new authorities and

there will be finances made available to oversee the whole process. As a result, during that year, there could be some very busy councillors who will be members of a parish council, a district council, the county council and a shadow unitary authority council.

The District Council elections due in May 2027 are very unlikely to happen, so district councillors are likely to be expected to stay in for another year. It is not entirely clear whether the Norfolk County Council elections due in May 2026 will be going ahead. The election decision has to be made 35 days before the Notice of Election, but in practice costs will be incurred by councils from the beginning of January 2026, due to the cost of booking venues for polling stations etc. If they do go ahead, those elected as County Councillors will be expected to serve for 2 years.

Once Unitary Authorities are in place, it is expected there will be a bigger focus on neighbourhood working with town and parish councils.

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.

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 from January 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 will be at the Coffee Morning at Brundall Memorial Hall on Wednesday 28 January from 9.30 am to 12 noon. The BDC Community Engagement Vehicle will also be in the car park which

can give 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](#)

The Warm Homes Team ([Norfolk Warm Homes](#)) will have leaflets, and application related materials for the current Warm Homes Government funding. They will also have a Thermal Imaging Camera to share and display how heat losses occur on buildings.

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 currently 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. I 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.

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 19/01/26)