

Broadland District Councillor Report for Strumpshaw Parish Council – 19 May 2026

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 is published on the Council's website.

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.

BDC opened 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. The deadline for applications is 7 June 2026. 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.

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

The process to create the next Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP 2045) has been commenced on the advice of the government. 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 ended in March 2026. It is recognised that the process will have to evolve to account for the new unitary boundaries.

BDC is now accepting nominations for the 2026 Broadland Community Awards. Nominations will close on 28 August 2026. These awards recognise individuals, schools, community organisations and businesses who commit themselves to helping their local community and making a difference to people's lives and the awards event will be held this year at the Royal Norwich Golf Club on 15 October.

The categories are as follows:

- **Young Achiever Award** - A young person (aged 18 and under) who has made an exceptional contribution to their community.
- **Community Organisation of the Year** - A community organisation who has made a significant impact to the community.
- **Business in the Community Award** - A local business or commercial organisation that has gone above and beyond to support the local community.
- **Volunteer of the Year** - An individual who selflessly devotes their time and energy to the community.

- **Environmental Champion Award** - An individual, school or community organisation who has made an extra effort to have a positive impact on the environment.
- **Connecting Communities Award** - An individual, school or community organisation that has gone out of their way to encourage communities to come together and promote inclusivity.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** - A person who has dedicated over 20 years of their life to the community, volunteering for the benefit of others and deserves special recognition for their efforts and commitment.
- **Healthy and Active Award** - An individual, school or community organisation that has gone above and beyond in facilitating healthy and active lifestyles.
- **Rising Star Award** - An individual or newly formed community organisation that has recently begun their volunteering journey.

For more information go to:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/broadland-community-awards>

Contact: Email communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk or call 01603 430611.

BDC will soon be launching a new online My Account platform. The platform will provide improved access and new features for managing residents' accounts online by giving:

- Access to services online at a time that suits the resident
- Completion and submission of online forms
- Monitoring the status of service requests
- Access to make changes to an account including updating personal information

For more information go to:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/council/new-myaccount-coming-soon>

The next Community Links Network Meeting will be held on Thursday 16 July from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm at the Walled Garden in Little Plumstead.

Click here to book a free ticket:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-links-networking-session-july-2026-tickets-1988024515843?aff=oddtcreator>

Community Links sessions are to bring together people who are community minded to make connections and learn from others. For the quarterly updates see:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/help-hub/support-community-groups/community-links-quarterly-updates>

For more information email communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk or call 01603 430431

A Toolkit for Community Groups can be downloaded here:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/help-hub/support-community-groups/toolkit-for-community-groups>

BDC is offering a range of activities for children during the May half term holiday from 23 – 26 May. The programme is open to young people aged 5-16. Activities can now be booked online at www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/t2t or by calling

(01603) 430525. Further information and updates are available at www.facebook.com/bdctots2teens.

The results of the Norfolk County Council elections were announced on 8 May. Cllr Jan Davis has been duly elected as Norfolk County Councillor for the Blofield and Brundall Division.

Local Government Reorganisation Update

On 25 March 2026 the government confirmed plans to move ahead with a proposal for 3 new unitary authorities in Norfolk. A map of the boundaries can be viewed here: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10608/>The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026. The Act:

- creates a statutory framework for “Strategic Authorities” across England
- expands powers for metro mayors and devolved authorities
- supports local government reorganisation
- introduces new community empowerment measures such as strengthened community asset purchase rights
- reforms some local governance and election arrangements.

The legislation underpins the wider English devolution programme, the move toward unitary councils and future strategic authority/mayoral arrangements in reorganised areas. A Structural Change Order (SCO) will need to be laid to dissolve the existing councils, set out the new warding arrangements for the new unitary councils, the number of councillors and the implementation structure. However, it is possible that this could now be significantly delayed which would have an impact on the overall timetable for Local Government Reorganisation.

A “topping out” ceremony for the new Visitor Centre and Café at Broadland Country Park was held on 11 May. This was to mark the completion of the building’s highest point. The centre is constructed sustainably and was developed in response to visitor feedback. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust is the principal manager of the site with BDC remaining a key stakeholder, and the total area of the site managed will be over 250 acres.

The next Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team meeting for the Acle area will be held on Tuesday 16 June 2026 at 6.00 pm at the Diamond Centre, School Lane, Sprowston NR7 8TR. Attendance can be in person or online. If you would like to attend online please contact: SNTBroadland@norfolk.police.uk
<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/area/your-area/norfolk/broadland/acle/meetings-and-events/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area>

The Veolia Sustainability Fund awards event was held in Brundall on 11 May. There were 9 successful recipients of funds totalling £8,715, for projects in the district including tree planting a school biodiversity project. Brundall Countryside Park received £2000 toward creating a wildlife pond. The fund will be opening again for further bids later in the year.

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on 15/5/26)