

Broadland District Councillors Report for Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood Parish Council Meeting –19 June 2025

Over the last 9 months Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils have been working on a Design Code for residential schemes. A Design Code establishes clear design requirements for new developments and covers items such as building height, design and materials, landscaping, parking spaces and bin stores. Once in place as a Supplementary Planning Document, it will be used in the planning process to assess new developments for concepts such as quality, local context and character. BDC is seeking views on the draft Design Code, Character Assessment and Framework. The public consultation is now open until 23 June 2025.

<https://southnorfolkandbroadland.placechangers.co.uk/page>

Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Jess Royal (Burlingham Ward) attended a public meeting on Monday 19 May at Cantley Primary School to consider a proposed merger of the school and nursery with Freethorpe Community Primary School from September 2025. A public consultation was run by Norfolk County Council.

The Business Builder support programme is now open to applications for 2025/2026. Funding is available to support business start-ups and existing businesses to invest and grow. There are also Capital grants available of up to £20,000 per case for businesses in rural areas. The current round closes on 25 June with a second round opening to expression of interests in late July.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/business/broadland-business-builder-programme>

Cllr Laming has had a Members Ward grant application approved for Snowy's Nursery and Pre-School for refurbishment of the existing outdoor learning area and provision of new outdoor learning equipment including a mud kitchen unit and wooden play shed/house for the children to use all year round. If sufficient funds are raised the work will take place in the school summer holidays this year.

At BDC Main Council on 22 May 2025 the following were approved:

BDC has agreed to purchase more Temporary Accommodation to meet increasing housing demand. This will be funded by government grant funding via the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) Round 3 and a contribution from the council. The plan is to create a capital budget of £3,412,600 in total including the LAHF funding to purchase two 3-bedroom houses and fifteen 2-bedroom flats.

The LAHF contribution agreed at is £478, 800 for 3 TA properties and £159,600 for 1 resettlement property so the BDC contribution would be £2774,200 from the Opportunities Fund, Broadland Growth Reserve and external borrowing.

BDC has revised and updated the Local Lettings Policy to ensure the policy meets local need as much as possible. The new policy gives greater weight to existing residents when allocating affordable homes for rent.

The Risk Management policy has been updated and adopted. This is the Council's key policy document on risk and guides management responsibilities and practices across the organisation.

Cllr Sue Holland was re-elected as the Leader of the Council and the councillors in Cabinet positions remain the same, including Cllr Jan Davis who holds the portfolio for Environmental Excellence. The Chairman of the Council is Cllr Caroline Karimi-Ghovanlou and Vice Chairman is Cllr Adrian Tipple.

SNC and BDC have trained more than 300 Wellbeing Champions through the Mindful Towns and Villages project, designed to strengthen mental health support at the heart of local communities. Residents are given skills and confidence to recognise early signs of mental health challenges and offer timely, compassionate support. It is funded by the Health and Wellbeing Board. For more information see: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/support-wellbeing/mindful-towns-villages>

BDC has delivered affordable housing providing much-needed homes for local communities and has significantly exceeded its annual target as set out in the Greater Norwich Local Housing Needs Assessment 2021. By the end of March 2025, 289 new affordable homes were delivered in the 2024/25 financial year surpassing the annual requirement of 95 homes by over 300%. The final quarter saw the completion of 84 new affordable homes, including 29 for rent and 55 for affordable ownership. A proportion of the shared ownership units were funded by the government Homes England scheme rather than by S106. New homes are transferred to Registered Providers for long term management and resident support.

A map of renewable energy schemes is now available to view on the BDC website. The map shows the location of schemes which have been proposed, consented and determined within South Norfolk and Broadland. Some are Town and Country Planning applications which are determined by the Local planning Authority, and others are Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects which are determined by the Secretary of State. <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning/renewables-mapping>

A new training brochure for Carrowbreck House Training Centre has been released covering a range of courses up to December 2025. <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/business/training-courses/carrowbreck-house-training-brochure-july-to-december-2024>

BDC has submitted a Housing Ombudsman Annual Submission report to the regulator of social housing on resident satisfaction with the landlord service and performance in areas such as health and safety repairs and complaints. In the year 2024/25 there were no complaints about the landlord service for council owned properties.

Nominations are now open for the BDC Community Awards 2025. These awards celebrate individuals and groups who give their time and energy to their communities. There are 8 nomination categories, and the closing date is 31 August

2025. For more information go to:

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

Bookings are now open for the Tots2Teens Summer Holiday Activity programme from 23 July to 3 September 2025 for ages 5-16 years. To view the brochure and book go to:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/community/tots-2-teens>

(Submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming on /6/25