

## **Bedingfeld Ward Report from Councillor Ian Sherwood**

**March / April 2024**

Breckland Council Report for the Parishes of Cockley Cley (239), Cranwich, Didlington (48), Foul登 (441), Gooderstone (400), Ickburgh (350), Mundford (1,564) and Oxborough (230).

Over 3,250 people - population in (brackets) living in 8 communities across 10,199 hectares in Breckland.

### **Contacting me**

Firstly, do contact me if you have any questions or queries in relation to local parish issues or Breckland Council matters. My contact information is: -

Email: [ian.sherwood@breckland.gov.uk](mailto:ian.sherwood@breckland.gov.uk) Mobile: 07795 236878

As always, I'm happy to take questions on my report at your meeting or via email, or phone call.

Do contact me between your parish council meetings and I'm always happy to meet with you if you wish to have a discussion on local parish issues or broader Breckland matters.

### **NEW - Facebook Page**

I've set up a Bedingfeld Ward Facebook Page here's the link <https://facebook.com/61557053812154> if you would like to follow and like the page, I'll post Breckland Council information relevant to Bedingfeld Ward.

### **Requests from the Parish Council**

I'm happy to have emails from individual councillors direct, but I would ask if it's a formal request from the Parish Council as a whole that it comes via your Clerk or Chairman, so I know it's a formal request which has been agreed by all.

### **Meeting Dates**

I have the following Parish Council Meeting dates in my diary, if these are incorrect or have been changed can I ask the Clerk to notify me – Thank You.

(Cockley Cley 7:15pm – Bi-monthly (5 Cllrs), Foul登 7:00pm – Quarterly (7 Cllrs), Gooderstone 6:30pm Bi-Monthly (7 Cllrs), Mundford – 7:30pm Monthly (9 Cllrs), Oxborough 7:30pm Bi-Monthly (5 Cllrs))

- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Mundford Parish Council – ✗ Apologies - Other meeting
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January – Gooderstone – ✗ Apologies – Work commitments
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Oxborough Parish Council – ✓ Attended.
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Breckland Council – ✓ Attended.
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Mundford Parish Council ✓ Attended.

- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Gooderstone Extraordinary Meeting – Local Plan ✓ Attended.
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Thetford & Bedingfeld (Safe Neighbourhood Action Panel) Norfolk Police - Mundford ✗ Apologies - Attended Gooderstone PC
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Cockley Cley Parish Council ✓ Attended.
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Breckland Council ✓ Attended.
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Cranwich Residents Meeting ✓ Attended.
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Gooderstone Parish Council ✓ Attended.
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Foulde n Parish Council ✗ Work commitments away.
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Mundford Parish Council ✗ Work commitments away.
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Oxborough Parish Council ✓ Attended.
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Foulde n Parish Council ✓ Attended.
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March Breckland Council ✗ Apologies work commitments.
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Mundford Parish Council – ✗ Apologies – Away
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Cockley Cley Parish Council - Cancelled
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Gooderstone Open Parish Meeting ✗ Work commitments.
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Oxborough Annual Parish Meeting ✗ Work commitments
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Foulde n Annual Parish Meeting
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May Mundford Parish Council
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May - Thetford & Bedingfeld (Safe Neighbourhood Action Panel) Norfolk Police – Gooderstone
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Gooderstone Parish Council
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Breckland Council
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Foulde n Annual Parish Meeting
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Mundford Parish Council

**Parish Council websites (with meeting dates, agendas, minutes etc & councillor details): -**

- Cockley Cley <https://cockleycleyparishcouncil.wordpress.com/>
- Foulde n <https://www.foulde nparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
- Gooderstone <https://www.gooderstonepc.info/>
- Mundford <https://mundfordparishcouncil.co.uk/>
- Oxborough <https://oxborough-pc.wixsite.com/website>

**Report It**

Local residents and Parish Councillors often contact me regarding local ward issues, from dog fouling to street light bulbs failing, I'm happy to take these matters up but remember Breckland Council has a Report It page on the website where matters such as this can be reported it helps identify any underlying local issues here's a link if you need it: -

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/reportit>

## **Services and Statutory Duties**

Information about the statutory and discretionary services that the Breckland Council provides. The law requires us to provide some services.

Breckland Councillors decide the amount of resources given to these depending on the level of need or risk they present.

### **Statutory Duties**

Statutory Duties are those which Breckland Council are required by law to carry out.

Some of these statutory responsibilities include:

- Organising local and national elections
- Compiling and maintaining the Register of Electors
- Homeless strategy and homelessness prevention
- Housing Advice
- Housing registers, including the self-build register
- Refugees
- Housing benefits
- Environmental health
- Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates collection
- Waste collection and recycling
- Street cleansing
- Food safety, food export certificates and water sampling
- Food Hygiene rating scheme
- Health and Safety
- Building Control
- Licensing of taxis, gambling premises, alcohol and entertainment licencing, temporary events, animal activities, skin piercing and scrap metal dealers.
- Local plans and development management
- Issuing Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

### **Discretionary Services**

Breckland Council keep a balance between essential services and the other services communities want or need.

Some of the Discretionary services that we currently provide include:

- Council-owned car parks
- Planning enforcement
- Promoting economic development
- Providing some grants to voluntary organisations
- Maintaining some parks and gardens
- Looking after council-owned parks and open spaces

- Some public toilets (some are owned by the local parish or town council)
- Leisure Provision (Sports Centres)

### **Contacting Breckland Council**

Use this link: <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/contactus>

You can telephone on: **01362 656870**.

For bins, grounds and streets, contact our service provider Serco on **0330 1099 220**.

### **Normal opening hours**

Open 09:00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday, except for the final Friday of each month when we close at 15:30.

### **If you have an emergency when the office is closed?**

Telephone **01362 656870** and press the option to speak to an out of hours adviser handling emergency calls, including homelessness, and environmental health emergencies.

### **Monthly Update**

#### **Grants supporting Bedingfeld Ward**

- Mundford Community Car Scheme £2,000.00
- West Norfolk Community Transport £5,000.00
- Foul登 Village Hall D-Day Fund £500.00

### **Local Plan Update**

The May Cabinet to be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May will have an update on the local plan, the agenda and reports are published the week before here's a link to the relevant page <https://democracy.breckland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=116&Mid=5010> I will be issuing an update relevant to Bedingfeld Ward shortly after the papers are published.

### **Breckland Council celebrates a further £1M investment for heritage and community projects in Swaffham.**

The High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) Partnership including Breckland Council, Historic England, Swaffham Town Council and the Swaffham Cultural Consortium have come together to celebrate the scheme's achievements over the 4-year programme. Breckland Council has proudly announced that the project will continue for a further 3 years with funding secured from Historic England and The National Lottery Heritage Fund to create an expected £1M budget to deliver heritage and community projects in the town.

Since its inception, the HSHAZ project has epitomized the power of collaboration and partnership, drawing on the expertise and guidance of numerous stakeholders from local to national. The partnership has seen joint investment in heritage and culture and its role in bringing wider economic benefits to Swaffham, whilst delivering against the district's future

vision for the town. The scheme has seen the restoration of Swaffham's iconic Assembly Rooms along with the installation and the repair of three heritage shop fronts improving key heritage buildings on the high street. Alongside this public realm improvements have included new benches, soft landscaping and will see the installation of enhanced signage and wayfinding, all supporting the recommendations of the award-winning Heritage Masterplan.

Breckland Council, along with partners, look forward to building on this success, using heritage as a vehicle to regenerate and maximise the potential of Swaffham. Securing further investment from Historic England and The National Lottery Heritage Fund will propel the project into its next phase, further enhancing Swaffham's built heritage whilst bringing new stakeholders together.

Central to the new phase of the project is the continuation of the community grants scheme. The initiative aims to restore and revitalize 9-12 historic buildings within the Swaffham conservation area, breathing new life into the heart of the town. The grant scheme will empower more local businesses to reclaim key historical features, ensuring that Swaffham's high street remains a source of pride for generations to come.

Additionally, further public realm works will focus on creating a greener, safer, and more appealing space for residents and visitors alike. Through careful consultation and planning, the project aims to foster a sense of community ownership.

In tandem with physical restoration efforts, the project will also deliver vital community engagement and training initiatives. These programmes, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, will provide essential skills and education to building owners, landlords, and young people in the building trade. By nurturing a deeper connection to Swaffham's rich history and heritage, these initiatives will ensure that the project's impact extends far beyond the physical realm.

### **Breckland Council secures over £250,000 to upgrade leisure centre.**

Breckland Council has been successful in a bid for more than £250,000 of national funding, which will help make Dereham Leisure Centre more efficient and environmentally friendly.

This comes as part of a government scheme that will see over 300 swimming pools and leisure centres across England receiving a share of funding from the Government and Sport England's £60 million capital investment programme. This funding will enable solar panels to be installed at Dereham Leisure Centre.

The solar panels will be mounted on the roof of the building, on Station Road, helping to meet the building's electricity needs. The solar panels will also reduce the building's carbon emissions by as much as 47 tonnes each year.

In total, the council has been awarded just under £265,000 by the national sports body. Breckland Council put forward a bid for the funding as part of its commitment to deliver projects which create a greener, more sustainable future. A second bid was made for the council's leisure centre in Thetford, but this was unsuccessful.