

Breckland District Council Report
Shipdham Annual Parish Meeting 2014

2013-2014 has been a very busy year for the Council, and a list of achievements is attached for your information.

Key Points

1. Due to a raft of efficiencies and income generation we have been able to freeze the council tax for the next two years – with Band D properties being charged at £69.03 – Breckland remains the lowest council tax in the country, whilst maintaining front line services. This is due not only to good housekeeping and prudential spending, but the income generated from a portfolio of investments –giving a far higher return than if the money was stuck in the bank!
2. After a period of interim Chief Executives, Mrs Anna Graves has been appointed CEO, and with a review of senior management including filling vacancies, the Corporate Management Team will be at full strength.
3. Unlike many councils we have been able to keep a pot of money for community grants, and a total of over £90,000 has been given out during the past financial year – including £20,000 to Shipdham Church.
4. Activities under the umbrella of Health and Wellbeing have stretched across the district, with thousands of participants, and there is currently a raft of opportunities for all ages and abilities being offered. The Council is one of the first to become a Dementia Friendly Council – with both staff and councillors training to have a greater awareness of this topical issue.
5. Our economic development team has gone from strength to strength and in the last year 47 small and medium businesses benefitted from advice and funding, enabling 10 new jobs and safeguarding a further 42 (details on attachment).
6. The Community Safety Team have achieved a 12.4% reduction in anti-social behaviour and continue to be held up as an example of best practice. Much of their work is not publicised for confidential reasons, but includes tackling domestic violence, education in schools, anti social behaviour and low level crime, working with other agencies including social landlords, housing associations, youth offending teams and childrens' services.
7. And last but not least, the Customer Contact Centre has been awarded an Excellence accreditation for the extremely high standard of service that they provide to our residents.

As your elected representative on Breckland Council I have dealt with over 70 enquiries from residents in the past year – ranging from faulty street lights, to planning assistance, from anti-social behaviour to dog fouling, from housing to mental health issues – from pot holes to wheelie bins. My commitment to you is to continue representing you all in the best way I can.

Please read the attached list of all achievements your District Council has delivered for you.

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