

Breckland District Councillors report for Annual Parish Meetings in Shipdham, Scarning and Cranworth 2022

During the continuing pandemic Breckland Council has continued to prioritise supporting individuals, local businesses and the wider community through a number of initiatives. The Council has maintained all front line services, whilst deploying officers to work more agilely in supporting the community.

The Corporate Plan identifies four key themes, which have been the basis of the Council's priorities: Inspiring Communities, Thriving Places, Breckland 2035 and Working Smarter

Inspiring Communities highlights

- New Waste and recycling contract with councils in north and west Norfolk
- New temporary accommodation in Thetford for homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Grants and Adaptions Team to enable residents to stay in their own homes
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- Trained 100 Mental Health Champions
- Supported Breckland Youth Advisory Board
- Worked with programmes such as Daisy and Leeway to support survivors of domestic abuse
- Provided and supported Vaccination centres
- Employed Covid officers, managing infection control

Thriving Places highlights

- Replacement of streetlights with LED bulbs
- Increased housing stock with new developments in Attleborough and Mileham
- Rent deferments and lease variations during difficult times
- Transformed waste space in Dereham to communal space Ellenor Fenn Garden
- Supported over 300 businesses to become Covid safe
- Digital Breckland Fund
- Launched new Commercial Waste service
- Supported 45 enterprises with Start-Up Scheme
- Spring back programme

Breckland 2035 highlights

- The Breckland 2035 Sustainability Strategy sets out how the Council will work with all agencies, residents and businesses to become a sustainable rural district council
- Growing garden waste service
- Community Green Grants scheme
- Working with leisure centres to become more environmentally friendly
- Tree Planting scheme across the District

Working Smarter highlights

- Significant transformation programme to change the way in which officers and elected members undertake their roles.

On line chat-box

Agile Working Policy

Addressed health and wellbeing (including mental health) for staff working remotely

Making website more accessible for all

Reviewed a number of officer teams to ensure best possible service for residents

In addition the Council have passed on all the Covid generated grants and financial aid from Central Government and still operate a number of assistance initiatives including the Household support grant

Further details of all Breckland community initiatives, facilities and work programmes are on the Council website

Parish councillors are encouraged to attend the Town and Parish Forum on 23rd May at 17.30 in Elizabeth House

Lynda Turner and Paul Hewett