

## **District Councillors Report**

**September 2023**

### **Local Plan:**

Breckland have planned a number of events to gather opinion on what the new Local Plan should look like in terms of policies and the spread of development across the district. Filigree Consulting has been appointed to lead the community consultation. You should already have had an invitation to attend the consultation event on the 13<sup>th</sup> September in Dereham at the town council offices.

From late September there will be public exhibition events in the market towns to gather views on the Issues and Options stage of the Local Plan as well as a digital session and a targeted engagement with young people. You will receive notification of these events from Breckland.

The formal preferred Options consultation (Reg 19) will take place in early 2024.

### **Nutrient Neutrality:**

The government announced recently that they were cancelling the requirement to mitigate the effect of nitrates and phosphates from new developments increasing overnight accommodation.

This will be achieved through an amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill currently progressing through parliament. This bill is not expected to gain royal assent until at least November. There is opposition to some parts of the bill (including the removal of nutrient neutrality mitigation) and there is a possibility that the November date will not be met. The bill would then have to be transferred to the next session of parliament in the new year which would further delay Breckland's ability to pass planning applications within the Wensum catchment area.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

Earlier in the year government asked for comments on changes to the NPPF, these proposed changes were beneficial to local planning authorities in that they altered the way authorities were judged in their performance in delivering homes. Any changes were promised by the end of June.

The revised NPPF was issued late last week and the major changes that were expected were not included in the update. The only changes related to repowering old renewable energy projects and are included in paragraphs 155, 158c (new), 222 (new) and the footnotes on page 46.

### **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)**

When the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 was passed schedule 3 of the act was not enacted. Basically schedule 3 required sustainable drainage systems to be mandatory for all qualifying developments and removed the automatic right for developers to connect to a sewer system.

The government has determined that schedule 3 will come into force in England, it is already in force in Wales, in early 2024.

Each qualifying development (eventually all) will require the drainage system for both foul and surface water to be approved by the Suds Approval Body (SAB), without this approval the planning permission will not be allowed. Arrangements for the maintenance of the drainage system for life of the development will also be required. The SAB for Norfolk will be the County Council.

In the past surface water has been allowed to enter the foul sewer system which in times of heavy rain cannot cope. This is the main reason for the overflow of the foul systems around the country into rivers. The implementation of schedule 3 will reduce the influx of surface water into the foul sewer system.

More information is available from the government publication: "The review for implementation of schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010". This is available on the gov.uk website.

#### Contacting Breckland:

Applying for housing and council tax, building control inspections, garden waste collections, voter registration and more: - [www.breckland.gov.uk/applyforit](http://www.breckland.gov.uk/applyforit)

If an issue affects you, your property or your community: - [www.breckland.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.breckland.gov.uk/reportit)

You can be kept up to date with all things to do with Breckland Council by subscribing to receive information that interests you at [www.breckland.gov.uk/email-updates](http://www.breckland.gov.uk/email-updates)

Mark Kiddle-Morris  
Member for Launditch Ward.

8<sup>th</sup> September 2023.