

District Councillors Report

February 2024

Change to Wheelie Bin Collection Days:

Residents in Breckland may soon need to put their bins out on a different day as the district council looks to make collection routes more efficient. Working with Serco, the collection contractor, Breckland will be making changes to the household waste, recycling and garden waste collection routes.

The changes are set to be introduced from Monday 26th February and just over half of residents will see a change to their waste and recycling collection day.

All residents will receive a leaflet with a new collection calendar in the first half of February. Residents who have a garden waste subscription will receive a separate calendar.

Local Plan Update:

Consultation on 4 local plan topics closes on the 19th February at 17:00hrs.

The topics are as follows:

- Alternative Development Strategy Scenarios. (should all the new dwellings be built in the 5 market towns, or should there be proportionate development in rural settlements?)
- Breckland Local Service Centre Topic Paper. (what criteria should define a local service centre?)
- Settlements and the Countryside. (should the new local plan retain settlement boundaries?)
- Site Profile Example. (shows the methodology behind the appraisal of development sites submitted by landowners and developers)

There are many aspects of plan making that make choosing the way ahead difficult. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Planning:

Biodiversity Net Gain:

Any planning application submitted after February 12th will be expected to prove Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) this means that each development site will have to have a biodiversity baseline assessment carried out prior to any development taking place. As part of the approval process the applicant will

have to demonstrate that post development the biodiversity of the site has increased by a minimum of 10%. Initially this will apply to developments of 10 or more dwellings. From the 2nd April BNG will apply to smaller sites of between 1-9 dwellings.

Where a developer cannot demonstrate an on-site BNG of 10% will be allowed to purchase off site credits equal to the on-site requirement. There are already enterprises that have been set up to sell BNG credits.

Nutrient Neutrality:

The requirement to mitigate the effects of nitrates and phosphates entering affected rivers is still stalling applications for homes within the river Wensum catchment. The Nutrient Neutrality (NN) has been in place since the 16th March 2022 and requires mitigation to be in place to combat the nutrients emanating from planning applications which involve an increase in overnight accommodation. In the Launditch ward this applies to Fransham and Beeston with Bittering. The government tried to resolve the matter by tabling an amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill but this was defeated in the Lords and new legislation is now required.

Developers and landowners will be allowed to buy credits from an off site scheme set up to sell such credits. Credits must be purchased from a nearby scheme, be in place before the first occupation of the building and be maintained for 80 years.

Breckland and other local authorities are working with landowners to set up NN mitigation schemes. However, the measures that will be able to filter nutrients from treated sewer outfalls (reed filter beds etc) take some time to set up and none are available at present.

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Breckland District Council.