

Breckland District Councillor for Launditch Ward

Report July 2024

Planning Policy:

The consultation on the preferred options ends on the 15th July. Your consultation responses are vital to inform the next round of consultation, probably near the end of this year, which will lead to an examination in public led by an independent inspector from the Planning Inspectorate.

The policies contained in the current consultation are sufficiently flexible to adapt to any changes in planning policy which the new government have proposed to introduce. The removal of settlement boundaries is particularly important to ensure that the “presumption in favour of sustainable development”, which is to be strengthened, does not increase dwelling density within our larger villages.

Nutrient Neutrality (NN):

Breckland has been working with other Norfolk authorities (Broadland, South Norfolk, North Norfolk and Norwich City) to find a solution to the problem of stalled house building which has been pause by the Natural England report (Mach 2022) of nutrient build up (particularly phosphorus) in the Wensum, Broads and Yare catchments.

The Norfolk Nutrient Mitigation Fund was set up on receipt of £9.6m capital and £600k revenue from government to encourage NN mitigation schemes to come forward. The capital will be loaned to landowners, developers and others who put forward mitigation schemes. The revenue will be offered as a non-returnable grant to enable a feasibility study to be undertaken on any proposed scheme. Any loan will be repaid through the sale of NN credits to house builders and the capital re-loaned to future schemes.

A loan of £1.2m was given to a scheme in South Norfolk in May an last week a further £2.2m was loaned to Norfolk Environmental Credits (NEC) to fund a scheme to replace septic tanks with modern package treatment plants. These 2 schemes should generate enough credits to bring forward at least 750 homes. Breckland alone has around 1400 homes awaiting planning approval in the Wensum catchment due to NN.

Car Parks:

Breckland owns around 30 car parks which cost approximately £450k revenue every year to run (business rates, enforcement. Additional capital is also spent in refurbishing (resurfacing, white lining, signage) the car parks. There is currently no charge to park on Breckland car parks, but the cost to each council taxpayer in Breckland is around £5 per year whether the resident uses the car parks or not.

On Monday 15th July Cabinet will be presented with a report that recommends a charging tariff is introduced on Breckland car parks. The tariff will not be uniform and will offer a free period on at least one carpark in each market town. The full details are contained in the Cabinet agenda for the 15th July which has been published and is available on the Breckland website.

Any questions on the above please contact me.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.

Member for Launditch Ward.

Executive Support Member for Planning Policy.

Breckland Council.