

Hardingham Parish Council Meeting 9th March 2020

Report by Breckland Council, Mattishall Ward, Councillors – Paul Claussen & Ian Martin

Highlights since the 13th January 2020 meeting...

The Local Plan.

Breckland Leader, Sam Chapman-Allen, has announced a reorganisation of the Cabinet. Paul Claussen now has Planning, Gordon Bambridge has Environmental Services & Public Protection, and Sarah Suggitt has joined the Cabinet with responsibility for Governance (Paul's previous role). Paul is therefore the lead member on planning issues and is chairing the new Local Plan Working Group tasked with reviewing the new Local Plan with a view to submitting a revised Plan in the next few years. Hardingham PC might like to consider what it would like to see in that Review and comment on the operation so far of the new Local Plan. Let us know your thoughts.

Application of Local Plan Policies

The understanding of how housing policies are applied is developing, particularly HOU 05 which applies to small villages and hamlets without settlement boundaries, such as Hardingham. Likewise, policies such as HOU 11 Residential Replacement, Extension & Alteration, HOU 12 Conversion of Buildings in the Countryside, HOU 13 Rural Workers Dwellings, and HOU 14 Affordable Housing Exceptions. For each application any number of these may apply.

Planning Committee "Call-in" Requests

This process is evolving. It has become clear that call-in requests for reserved matters applications i.e. following a previous Outline Planning Permission, and applications to modify conditions of a previous Permission, are unlikely to be accepted for decision by the Planning Committee unless there is a clear planning reason.

Council Budget & Precept Set

At the Full Council Meeting on 27th February the 2020/21 budget and precept are for discussion and agreement. The budget and income balance. The New Homes Bonus is not used for revenue expenditure and has again added to the Growth Reserve for short-term community projects, and the General Reserve as part of building Breckland's resilience in the face of uncertainty over future funding arrangements. The proposed Council Tax is set for a Band D property at £93.78 – a £4.95 pa increase. At this level Breckland's Council Tax continues to be the lowest in the country.

The Silver Social is a programme aimed at bringing arts to older people in rural communities. Arts Council funded and managed by Breckland Council, Silver Social brings something a little different to daily life in towns and villages across Breckland, through touring circuits of creative workshops and live performances. To find out more visit the Project Website: www.thesilversocial.com.

25/02/20: April launch date announced after £1.5 million sports facilities refurbishment

The Academy Transformation Trust, which are currently delivering a £1.5 million refurbishment of the sports facilities at Swaffham's Nicholas Hammond Academy, have announced the refurbished sports hall and gym will reopen to the school and the wider local community in April 2020.

05/02/20: £235k investment to tackle crime and boost local towns

Breckland Council is to invest almost a quarter-of-a-million pounds across three projects which will help disrupt organised crime in the district and support local towns to thrive.

03/02/20: Empty homes issue to be tackled by Breckland Council

A new Empty Homes support programme to help bring long-term empty homes back into use in Private Rented Sector. Empty homeowners can now access up to £11,500 in grants as part of this programme to bring long term empty properties back into use, subject to eligibility.

Contact Paul Claussen by:

@ paul.claussen@breckland.gov.uk,

T. 01603 880 454

Heath Cottage, 24 Heath Road, Hockering,
Norfolk NR20 3JB

Contact Ian Martin by:

@ ian.martin@breckland.gov.uk

T. 01362 854 248, M. 07968 349 543, f Ian Martin
Yaxham House, Norwich Road, Yaxham,
Norfolk NR19 1RH