Dear Chairman and councillors

The past year has been busy With all manner of things, not only with planning applications but interest re the call for sites with the Local Plan review.  Which can be found by googling Brecklandlocalplan.commonplace.

As part of the Inspiring Communities programme Breckland awarded over £120,000 to local community projects making a difference to local communities.  In 2022 Breckland were in the top 10 UK councils for online accessibility and we are looking into working with  AI and Alexa and the councils 'Bobbie' to make it even better for residents to find information and contact us

Commercial property continues to bring in excellent revenue streams to protect front line services and to keep C/T one of the lowest in the country and the lowest in East Anglia.

Breckland have a 2025 sustainability strategy and funded new EV charging points in Swaffham and Watton and have distributed over £100,000 in green grants.

In supporting vulnerable people, we committed £4.6m in purchasing or building temporary accommodation homes across the district with £1.8 million developing Elm House in Thetford for homeless people giving them support in skills and job seeking to move on and become independent. We are also the only council in Norfolk to allow a homeless person to bring their dog into the shelter, thus keeping that important bond of friendship safe

For the 2nd year running the RSPCA awarded Brecklands dog service their gold paws award.  We are the only council in Norfolk and North Suffolk to employ a dedicated Animal Welfare/Licensing officer who ensures breeders are both licensed and fit for purpose. Dog breeding in Breckland has reduced dramatically.  He is also a qualified Zoo and dangerous animals inspector having recently awarded Banham Zoo their health certificate

At the end of 2022 Breckland adopted the Five Market Towns delivery plan.  Development of the Queen Mothers Garden in Dereham. A new funding agreement for expansion of Attleborough leisure centre.  Funding for a programme of events in Thetford in 2022. Flagpoles on Watton High St and in Swaffham the High Street Heritage Action Zone has put in place funding to restore 4 of the town's historic buildings.

Breckland are in line to receive £1m in national funding to help support rural businesses and communities over the next two years,

There was the very successful warm rooms project with funding available for village halls and pubs/public places to apply for funding to provide warm spaces, meet and greet and have a cup of coffee or tea.  Some places also provided a weekly hot lunch to help people combat isolation during the cold months

We are investing £450,000 to extend our Inspiring Communities programme for a further 2 years expanding its services to help residents by funding debt advisers (already in place) based at the offices in Thetford and Dereham and also running a social prescribing project with the Norfolk and Norwich University, supporting patients in Breckland and helping to reduce admissions to A&E for more information visit [Breckland.gov.uk/community](http://Breckland.gov.uk/community)

Finally, Breckland successfully provided over £30,000 to organisations in towns and villages to celebrate the Kings Coronation with funding for projects as well as purchasing flagpoles. I'm proud to say that parishes in Guiltcross were successful in 9 bids for funding.  The most in Breckland and I was very happy to support all the bids.

And you thought all we did was to empty your bins and collect council tax.....

Kind regards