

Carbrooke Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Carbrooke Church at 6.30pm on Monday 9 April 2018.

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners to discuss parish affairs and to pass resolutions thereon (although it should be noted that such resolutions will not bind the Parish Council).

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2017
3. Members of the public to discuss and vote on parish affairs
4. To receive the Chairman's Report from Cllr P Sampher
5. To receive the County Councillor's report from Cllr C Bowes
6. To receive the Breckland Councillor's report from Cllr T Hewett
7. To receive the Blenheim Grange Residents Association report from Cllr M Wormald
8. To receive the Millennium Green Trust's report from Cllr T Coppen
9. To receive the Carbrooke Heritage Group's report from Mr D Saunders
10. To receive Carbrooke PCC's report from Mrs A Weatherell
11. To receive Carbrooke Village Hall Trust's report from Mrs D Muller

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Phil Sampher
Chairman of Carbrooke Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Carbrooke held at 6.30pm on 9 April 2018 at Carbrooke Church

Present Cllr Sampher (chair), J Borrett, S Dekeyzer, J Nind, M Wormal. Cllr C Bowes (Norfolk County Council) Cllr T Hewett (Breckland Council)
In attendance N Hartley (Parish Clerk). Six members of the public.

1. Welcome and apologies

Cllr Sampher welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs Fishlock and Coppen.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2017 were approved and signed.

3. Parish Affairs

The problems at the Anglian Water sewage treatment station at Bridge Street were noted. Water is having to be taken from the site as the station cannot cope with the amount of water/waste passing through it. Excess water is getting into the system. Anglian Water is writing to all residents and is investigating where the excess water is coming from.

4. Chairman's Report

A copy of Cllr Sampher's report is attached to the minutes.

5. County Councillor's Report

A copy of Cllr Bowes' report is attached to the minutes.

6. Breckland Councillor's Report

A copy of Cllr Hewett's report is attached to the minutes.

7. Blenheim Grange Residents Association

A copy of Cllr Wormal's report is attached to the minutes.

8. Millennium Green Trust

Mr Lorne noted that the playground had been installed last November. Work is continuing on the maze and volunteers had been working with the school to plant the trees. The trees had been secured by the school through the Woodland Trust. The lack of volunteers was

noted. It was observed that the Green is a wonderful asset for the village, but that in order to manage it, it needs more volunteers.

9. Carbrooke Heritage Group

A copy of Mr Saunders' report is attached to the minutes.

10. Carbrooke PCC

A copy of Mrs Weatherell's report is attached to the minutes.

11. Village Hall

A copy of Mrs Muller's report is attached to the minutes.

Chairman's Report

It has been a busy year for the Parish Council.

The Council has completed the following:-

- We have adopted the phone box outside the church with a view to installing a defibrillator in it and are seeking funding for the defibrillator, together with the refurbishment works ie repainting, cleaning inside, improving access.

- The Parish Council has applied for a moveable speed sign through the Parish Partnership scheme and we would like to thank Claire Bowes for the £1,000 contribution from her budget. We will be purchasing the sign later this year.

- The Council has handed the management and the proceeds of the Bottle Bank to the Millennium Green Trust.

- And is introducing a community award at the school

- Last year, the Council made grants to the parish Organisations. Also we were pleased to made a financial contribution to the history group weekend.

- The Council has reps on all the main village organisations.

- The Parish Council also provided the Christmas tree outside the church and will do so again this year.

- Over the course of this year, the Council will be introducing a Three Year Plan for the older part of the village to which all residents will be invited to contribute.

- Last year, the Council adopted a 3 year plan for Blenheim Grange and is pursuing a rolling programme of works.

- We have cleared the slabs and re grassed an area near the play area.

- We have cleared the woods at the front of Blenheim Grange near Norwich Road.

- And have felled 9 silver birches near the Community Cabin and Ansen Way.

- We have also cleared brambles in same areas with view to improve the grassed area for families to enjoy.
- We have secured funding for 2 five a side goals to be installed when the underground water tank has been installed and the ground reseeded next to the play area.
- We have installed a new bus shelter on Norwich Road opposite Washington Drive and moved the bus stop to a safer, less dangerous part of the road .
- The Council is trying to find solution re litter at both Blenheim Grange and throughout the village.

The Council has done more full council training and we are making changes to ensure best practice at all times.

We also now have our own designated website (www.carbrookepc.info) and there is information on there about what we are doing. There is also space for residents to contact us with their ideas for improvements in the parish and to make comments on what we are doing. We are always looking to improve and welcome comments. We are also keen for residents to attend our monthly meetings at which there is always an opportunity for you to raise your concerns/make comments about any item of Council business.

County Councillor
Annual Report to Town and Parish Councils 2017-18

Infrastructure

Broadband – our Better Broadband for Norfolk programme has already transformed broadband speeds for many people in the county, including in some of our most rural areas. We're on course to increase superfast broadband access in Norfolk to 95 per cent by March 2020 but we need to do more to reach the final five per cent. So we're looking to invest an additional £13m into the programme to extend superfast broadband coverage and get us much closer to our goal of eliminating broadband inequality in the county.

Mobile coverage – our new Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee is leaving no stone unturned in the drive to improve the county's mobile coverage (with a target of 98%) – working with the big four mobile providers and identifying opportunities to work together to improve the quality and reach of mobile data and voice coverage in Norfolk. In February we kicked off a campaign to improve coverage, with our survey van scouring the county to identify areas of greatest need. We are also using our county council-owned buildings to help overcome 'not spots', by putting masts on top of them to improve phone signals.

A47 – we continue to actively work with the A47 Alliance, bringing together key stakeholders from Lowestoft to Peterborough to lobby for improvements to this important trunk road. Throughout 2017 we worked with Highways England to develop proposals for sections of dualling and junction improvements to deliver the already funded projects (over £300m) as soon as possible. In Norfolk, this has seen the preferred scheme solutions announced by HE for dual carriageways between Easton and North Tuddenham, and from Blofield to Burlingham. It has also resulted in proposed junction improvement details being published for the A47/A11 Thickthorn junction, as well as the Vauxhall junction in Great Yarmouth. The County Council is currently delivering improvements to the rail station junction in Great Yarmouth, using funding provided by HE, which has also confirmed its commitment to complete the construction of all these projects between 2020 and 2023.

We are also actively engaging – with the A47 Alliance – in securing the next round of funding for further trunk road improvements due to be delivered between 2020 and 2025. Our two priorities in Norfolk remain unchanged: to see dualling of the Acle Straight and the Tilney to East Winch sections. This all builds towards the ultimate aim of seeing the A47 being a dual carriageway from Great Yarmouth through to Peterborough and the A1.

Market towns – our Environment, Development and Transport Committee agreed in September 2017 to carry out a series of studies looking at short, medium and long-term transport impacts of growth in market towns – to help us identify and plan interventions ahead of growth. The first year's studies, in Dereham, Thetford, North Walsham, Swaffham and Diss, are already under way, in close cooperation with local stakeholders, including town and district councils.

And finally... recycling Norfolk's disused railways

As part of our vision for a cycling and walking network for the county, a feasibility study is looking at bringing disused railways and other underused parts of the transport network back into use as cycling and walking routes which would help make the county a top walking and cycling destination for leisure and tourism. The initial feasibility study focusses on three disused railways, Weaver's Way – which is owned in part by Norfolk County Council - King's Lynn to Fakenham and King's Lynn to Hunstanton.

Economy

Repton Property Developments – Norfolk is growing and we need enough houses for people to live in. Gathering information about the types of housing required will help us support economic regeneration and has the potential for us to make money from our own properties. With this in mind, we have set up our own company, Repton Property Developments Ltd, to do this work. We're

scrutinising our own property estate as, if we offer several services from fewer buildings, we can sell surplus property and reduce running costs. And having several services in one place also offers a better service to the public.

Launch of Local Investment in Future Talent programme – our successful bid for funding on behalf of five Local Action Groups (LAGs) resulted in the launch of a new skills and employability programme, Local Investment in Future Talent (LIFT). Funded by the European Social Fund, LIFT seeks applications from community-based organisations in Norfolk and north Suffolk that can deliver targeted employment and skills support in rural areas. The first project was approved in January and will see Moore Networking use the grant to set up TrAC Apprenticeships Norfolk, a pilot for an Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA). This will support and enable rural businesses to host apprenticeships for care leavers and other vulnerable young people who are not in education, employment or training. Also approved is a project to support ex-offenders to help grow salad crops for local restaurants. The Horticultural Industry Scheme, based in Thetford, offers

training and help finding work to ex-offenders, and their £26,415.29 grant from the LIFT funding programme will enable them to support 15 individuals over the next 12 months.

Launch of new rural strategy – the county’s rural economy was boosted in November with the launch of Strong Roots: New Growth - Norfolk Rural Strategy 2017-2020. Since the original Norfolk Rural Development Strategy was published in 2013 there have been significant changes, which will have major impacts on Norfolk’s rural economy - these include the UK voting to leave the EU, the introduction of the National Living Wage and rapid advances in technology. To respond to the changes, the Norfolk Rural Strategy Steering Group commissioned a refresh of the 2013 strategy to identify the priority areas on which the Norfolk rural community needs to focus between now and 2020. Effective delivery of the strategy will require close cooperation and action from all partners with a stake in Norfolk’s rural economy.

LEADER project reaches funding milestone – funding allocated to rural businesses in Norfolk and north Suffolk through the LEADER programme, an initiative managed by the county council, passed the £3m mark in December. Since Norfolk and north Suffolk’s LEADER programme started, the five Local Action Groups (LAGs) have awarded millions to 69 rural projects.

Four Norfolk County Council farms made available for tenancy – more than 1,000 acres of Norfolk County Council’s 16,738-acre County Farms portfolio was launched for tender in January. The four farms available are located at Marshland St James and Welney in the west of the county, North Burlingham to the east, and Binham to the north. We’ve also expanded our portfolio, with County Farms acquiring Bank House Farm in Marshland St James back in September. The farms present opportunities for people at all stages of their farming career, whether it’s a new entrant looking for their first farm, someone looking for the next rung on the ladder or those ready to go to the next level with a commercial-sized farm holding. Offering these tenancies underlines our support for sustaining and creating rural employment throughout the county.

Children and Families

Education

A good education – our role is to champion the very best education for Norfolk’s children and in July for the first time, Norfolk reached or exceeded the national average for the proportion of good and outstanding schools, with 90% of Norfolk’s school now judged as good or better by Ofsted.

Children in care deserve the same chances as everyone else and, as their corporate parent, the County Council needs to do all it can to support them. Early indications suggest that there were significant improvements in last year’s exam and assessment results for looked after children. Although the Department for Education has not yet published official statistics, our provisional data for all the children in our care suggests that:

- The proportion achieving the expected level in English and maths GCSE has

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increased from 15% to 26% - up 11 percentage points

- The proportion reaching the expected level at Key Stage 2 has increased from 19% to 30% – up 11 percentage points;
- The proportion achieving a good level of development at the age of five has increased by eight percentage points – from 23% to 31%.
- No looked after children were permanently excluded from school last year, compared with six the previous year.

Investing in special educational needs places – because we want children to be taught in their local communities wherever possible, we are developing a new strategy to create more school places for children with special educational needs – and are set to receive an additional £2.7m from the Department for Education to ensure there is enough specialist provision for them, subject to Government approval of our plans. But we believe a more ambitious plan, beyond the £2.7m, is needed to ensure children can go to school closer to home, and reducing the high transport and placement costs for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

School buildings – good quality places for school children in growing communities – since May 2017, we have approved £169m of capital investment in school building, to develop new and extended schools, making sure that there are enough school places across the county, responding to both population growth and housing development. The new schools are being developed as the education landscape across the county continues to change, with 43% of Norfolk’s schools now academies.

Children’s Social Care

Ofsted turnaround – outstanding adoption service and improved support for vulnerable children sees council removed from intervention. Our Ofsted report was published in January, lifting us out of intervention, praising our outstanding adoption service and highlighting significant improvements in support to children in our care and care leavers. Overall, we require improvement but the good judgement we all want to see is now in sight. Inspectors highlighted some strong social work practice, innovation in recruiting staff and ‘steady progress’ in support for care leavers. And it’s clear from the report that children in Norfolk now have a much better experience than they did when we were first judged inadequate back in 2013. The report also acknowledges the strong leadership of the council’s new permanent Director of Children’s Services and the determination of councillors to provide good quality services.

Investing in children and families – we are investing £12m over the next four years to transform how we work with children and families to help support children to live safely at home. For those who do come into care, we want to ensure they can live with foster families wherever possible, rather than in residential homes. This means investing in intensive support for families whose children are at risk of coming into care. It also means we need to recruit more foster carers and develop more early help services to work with families before they come into contact with social care. Without this level of investment, we estimate that demand for our services will continue to rise, costing an extra £5m each year by 2021-22. By reducing demand and investing now, we avoid costs going up in the future.

Our assisted boarding scheme, which places children at risk of coming into care in boarding school places, has received national recognition this year. Norfolk has been described as ‘leading the way’ in this work and we’re now assisting the Department for Education to try to get more local authorities to provide these opportunities for children in need. Investing in these children’s education helps to reduce the high costs that we would pay if they came into our care.

Thirty new social workers through grow your own – this year we’ve welcomed 62 newly qualified social workers to Children’s Services, as part of our work to grow our own talented staff. Our Norfolk Institute of Practice Excellence (NIPE), created in 2014, provides dedicated support and training to our new social work staff. Our scheme has high retention rates and was praised as national best practice in our recent Ofsted report.

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Adult Social Care

Key highlights include:

In Good Company – our award-winning campaign to tackle loneliness in Norfolk continues to go from strength to strength. The health impact of being lonely can equate to smoking 30 cigarettes a day, so the risks can be substantial. With an estimated 43,700 lonely people in the county, the campaign is vital to ensure no one in Norfolk spends a lonely day if they don’t want to. Thirty businesses and groups have now got one of our In Good Company quality marks, which were launched in July 2016 – and which highlight their strong commitment to combating loneliness.

£35m boost for adult social care – this welcome one-off funding from the Government helped address pressures in the health and social care system and followed extensive national lobbying by local authorities, including Norfolk. The money has helped us recruit 50 social workers, as well as contributing to new preventative activities to reduce and delay the need for formal care and support the safe discharge of people from hospital.

Norfolk, Living Well – our campaign to recruit 50 social workers coincided with the introduction of this new approach to social work, promoting people’s strengths and independence. Also known as the three conversations model, it is already operating successfully elsewhere and is about looking at what is going well in somebody’s life and building on that to make things better for them.

Recruiting for reablement – in November we recruited around 80 new care workers countywide, including posts for our new accommodation-based reablement initiative which sees reablement care workers provide a ‘wrap around’ service to follow people from hospital and support them back to their home. These are people who are medically fit but unable to return to their home safely. We’re also planning a facility for west Norfolk.

Caring for carers – with the five Clinical Commissioning Groups, we’ve commissioned a new carer-led service, Carers Matter Norfolk, to support the county’s 100,000 unpaid carers.

Tackling winter pressures, managing the strain on health and social care – to support timely and safe discharges from hospital, we agreed a package of financial measures to help home care and care home providers respond swiftly to requests to take on care packages related to hospital discharges. Facilitating a speedy discharge for people from hospital, either to their own home or to residential care, is essential to help people stay independent and also to keep our emergency care system running. Our Enhanced Home Support Service, a targeted initiative launched in February, is aimed at reducing delayed discharges from the three acute hospitals, as well as preventing unnecessary admissions. We're piloting it for three years and are delivering it in partnership with three home support framework providers.

Investing in home support – in the next financial year, we will be investing an extra £2.1m to help home support providers. We've developed a new model to improve the coverage and quality of home support countywide. The key to making this work will be a collaborative approach from providers – communicating and working as a collective whole to deliver a stronger and more robust service. The ambition is that providers can respond to the majority of requests quickly and is reliable, providing continuity of well-trained personnel working to agreed professional standards, for people using these services to be able to remain in their own homes for as long as they wish.

Communities

Norfolk Community Learning Services – Our Community Learning Services for adults have gone from strength to strength this year. In April, Norfolk Community Learning Services (NCLS) was shortlisted for a national award in recognition of its performance turnaround. NCLS was one of six national finalists in the Most Improved Council category of the Municipal Journal's Local Government Achievement Awards.

Adult learners celebrate excellent GCSE results – August saw students from NCLS celebrating their GCSE results, with 75% of those who sat an English GCSE achieving a grade 9-4 (A*-C) and 63% achieving the same result in maths. As well as being great results for the learners, the pass rates

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were well above the national pass rates for learners aged 17 and over taking English (40% above) and maths (21% above) GCSE. This was a testament to a combination of the students' hard work and the high standard of teaching at NCLS.

Open Library – we are continuing to extend Open Library to more branches, giving customers access to libraries beyond staffed opening hours, by using their membership cards to access library buildings. This initiative ran successfully as a pilot project and the aim is to offer this service at all libraries.

Norfolk Reading Pathway – following a grant of £98,000 from Arts Council England, we have supported almost 600 Norfolk residents aged 8 and above to learn to read. Using a phonics-based reading programme, learners are supported by library volunteer coaches, who are given full training. A large part of this project has involved supporting schools with children who struggle to read. Reading sessions take place at libraries across Norfolk and we are continuing to recruit new learners and volunteers.

Digital libraries – as well as launching of the Libby app, enabling customers to access books from anywhere, the Library Service has been running a range of digital clubs. This includes everything from helping people learn to log on to the internet or use a tablet computer, through to a number of successful coding clubs. In the Autumn of 2017, Norfolk libraries were given 500 BBC micro:bits which can be borrowed for free. They are tiny codeable computers that help people get to grips with digital devices and learn about coding.

Libraries as community hubs are helping break down social isolation and bringing services to the people – whether it's baby-weighing scales, Knit and Natter or Just a Cuppa drop-in sessions. There are some amazing volunteers doing amazing work at our libraries, making a huge difference to people's lives by fundraising, knitting, cooking, helping people with IT, running craft sessions, literacy sessions and activities for people with dementia.

Outstanding exhibitions at our museums – two home-grown exhibitions at Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery pulled in the crowds in the summer and autumn of 2017. *Nelson & Norfolk* and *Rembrandt: Lightening the Darkness* shone a spotlight on extraordinary objects in the Castle collections. The exhibition, which also featured major loans from Royal Museums Greenwich and the Royal Collections, attracted 57,527 visitors and received regional, national and international coverage.

Domestic abuse – we continue to tackle domestic abuse in Norfolk head-on, with our programme to train 'champions' – people in professions who deal with the public and who are taught to spot signs of abuse and offer support. Domestic abuse is not always physical and can take many forms, including coercion and control, and our aim is to raise awareness about this and focus on the safety of people at risk. Our domestic abuse change coordinators have exceeded all expectations by training 925 champions so far since 2015, keeping an estimated 1,500 people in the county safer.

Mental health – 2017 saw the launch of our suicide prevention and men's mental health campaign targeting males, and in particular older men. There are around 77 suicides a year in Norfolk - higher than the national average. "I am really (not) okay" is our multi-agency strategy for suicide prevention in Norfolk, and talks about it being everyone's responsibility, with all of us having a part to play in helping friends or family members who may be at risk. In

December, we partnered with Norwich Theatre Royal to launch a month-long series of events focusing on men's mental health to help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health.

Fire and Rescue – councillors from our Communities Committee voted unanimously in January that the Fire and Rescue Service should continue to be governed by the county council. In 2016/17 (latest stats available), our Fire and Rescue Service attended 7,340 incidents and rescued over 700 people. Following the devastating Grenfell Tower blaze in London, our Fire and Rescue Service did a great deal of public reassurance work and inspected all domestic Norfolk high-rise flats, mid-rise blocks and many commercial premises to check safety compliance. We've expanded our collaboration with the East of England Ambulance Service Trust - to have ambulances based at Great Yarmouth fire station for ease of accessing incidents. We're already doing this at Carrow, Sandringham and Sheringham. Our prevention work continues and included the IMPACT roadshow,

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seeking to reduce road casualties among young people and run in collaboration with Norfolk Constabulary.

Our drive to fill vacancies for on-call firefighters across Norfolk continues. The number of vacancies has decreased over recent months but there is still work to do to fill the remaining gaps in cover. Many of the recruitment difficulties are caused by the rural locations of fire stations and the need for on-call staff to live or work within five minutes of them.

The Prince's Trust and Crucial Crew projects saw continued success again and show the great efforts being made by the service with young people in our county.

Norse Group

The Norse Group brings together facilities management specialists Norse Commercial Services, property consultancy NPS Group and care provider Norse Care. The Group has a combined turnover of more than £281m and provides employment for over 10,000 staff.

Norfolk remains central to Norse Group's thinking, returning millions of pounds in profits to the County Council every year, providing thousands of local jobs and underpinning the local community.

NorseCare is the largest care provider in East Anglia, supporting over 1,400 of Norfolk's most vulnerable people. Which? magazine recently found that for care providers who have more than 12 care homes, NorseCare was ranked in the top 10 in the country for having homes with good or outstanding CQC ratings. The Group was awarded Norfolk County Council's In Good Company Quality Mark Plus in February 2018, in recognition of the positive work being done by staff to tackle loneliness in Norfolk.

Claire Bowes
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Breckland District Councillor Annual Report

Carbrooke 9th April 2018

DC Theresa Hewett -

It has been a privilege to serve Carbrooke residents as your District Councillor this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know many of you. I get to as many Parish Council meetings as I can and am pleased to offer help and advice should you have any questions or concerns around the District Council's responsibilities. If I am not able to help I can usually put you in touch with someone who can! The District Council's responsibilities are:



Although the majority of residents who have contacted me have planning queries, anti-social behaviour concerns or questions about grant funding, the Council also continues with its daily work. The report below contains headlines about the key areas of work for the Council in terms of our priorities this year:

Breckland Council key achievements (2017/18)

Breckland Council's vision is to make Breckland 'a place where people and business can thrive'. This is underpinned by four priorities, outlined in the Corporate Plan:

- Supporting Breckland to develop and thrive
- Providing the right services at the right time and in the right way
- Developing the local economy to be vibrant with continued growth
- Enabling stronger, more independent communities

Examples of how projects have contributed to the priorities/vision are given below:

Supporting Breckland to develop and thrive

Set a **balanced budget** for the coming year (2018/19), including the removal of our reliance on Government Rate Support Grant (RSG).

Allocated £1.7m to support sustainable community projects over the coming financial year.

Developed our draft **Local Plan**, which has been through its final round of consultation and is now awaiting inspector feedback. The Local Plan Examination Hearing sessions are to be held in public between April and June. We have worked with communities to develop a number of Neighbourhood Plans.

Improving planning and building control functions – we have continued to work closely with Capita to deliver planning and building control functions undertaking a full review of performance. We are currently working with our partner to further improve the service for the Council and our customers.

Procured consultancy to provide evidence for the expansion of the Cambridge-Norwich Tech Corridor to support the delivery of **business growth** in the district, including at sites in Snetterton and Thetford and continued to work with partners on scoping a business case for enhancements to the A47, including backing calls for central government investment.

Developed a **strategic health and wellbeing action plan** and, in partnership with Public Health, identified Thetford as a priority area for investigation on health and wellbeing issues.

As part of **Breckland Bridge** property and development partnership, built and sold homes in Mileham - including some affordable housing. Expanded housing development in Mileham to include an extra three homes as part of a second phase of construction. Secured planning permission for new homes in Attleborough, as part of the Breckland Bridge partnership.

Declared an air quality management area to address levels of traffic-related nitrogen dioxide in an area of Swaffham. Organised a public consultation on potential measures to improve air quality in the town centre. Working with stakeholders to improve air quality in this area.

Enabling stronger, more independent communities

Launched our **Market Town Initiative**, which includes a range of collaborative projects that will ensure each market town is economically vibrant, achieves long-term sustainability, has a clear identity, is a popular destination, has an enhanced environment, and secures third-party investment. The Initiative will have benefits for villages and residents surrounding the market towns.

Implemented new partnership with **ShopAppy**, which will give local independent businesses a central web presence and enable shoppers to make purchases online 24/7.

Implemented the new **Our Breckland Lottery**, which will enable players to directly support local community groups through ticket sales. First draw was at the end of March.

In partnership with Norfolk Community Foundation, **allocated £250,000+ of grants to projects in the district**, including children's play area and outdoor sport provisions.

Commenced delivery of the '**Silver Social**' project which is delivering workshops across the district to those who are at risk of being socially isolated.

Launched **community fridges** in the district's market towns, including the first in Norfolk.

Committed funding as part of budget setting to **replace and/or repair footway lights** in the district.

Committed to tackling '**unsightly sites**' across the District.

Introduced **Public Space Protection Orders** within our towns, to help tackle anti-social behaviour.

Overseen the **extension of the gym facilities** at the leisure centre in Thetford, providing a new free weights area in the gym, which was provided at no cost to the council and with positive feedback from users.

Commenced promotion of a '**Smokefree Sidelines**' project to help de-normalise smoking. Received support from a number of local youth football clubs.

Continued to meet as part of the **antisocial behaviour advisory group** which brings together multiple agencies to share and support on cases, giving a co-ordinated approach to support and action against ASB.

RESPECT Zones continue in car parks across the district, helping to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour.

Organised an Easter and a summer **holiday activity programme** for children.

Investigated infectious disease and food poisoning outbreaks to ensure prevention and control.

Sampled food and water supplies/bathing water to prevent ill health and early intervention.

Continued to both proactively and reactively deal with dog fouling to ensure public spaces are cleaner for residents' use.

Developing the local economy to be vibrant with continued growth

Won the highly prestigious Municipal Journal (MJ) award for Commercialism in the Property estate.

Secured £10m Housing Investment Fund (HIF) central government funding to support infrastructure projects and delivery of new homes on the outskirts of Thetford.

Secured £2.65m from New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to upgrade Snetterton Heath's existing electricity supply and support substantial business growth.

Secured £300,000 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's Land Release Fund, which will support an infrastructure project to provide access onto Council-owned land in Shipdham and enable the development of housing in the future.

Completed a **pilot business rates reduction** scheme in Dereham, and announced roll-out of district-wide scheme from April 2018. (Details below.)

Developed our '**Open for Business**' approach, ensuring support and advice is available for businesses of all sizes. Made regular visits to key businesses in the district to provide advice and assistance on the range of support services available from the council and partners.

Made referrals for business to the New Anglia LEP to facilitate and support grants for business growth in the district.

Supported the growth of Thetford and Attleborough by working with developers and providing planning advice.

Seen the opening of Grand Central, the first restaurant in the Thetford Riverside leisure complex. The council is in ongoing discussions with tenants who are potentially interested in opening at the leisure complex in the future.

At the request of town councils, agreed to implement pilot enforcement periods at some Swaffham and Attleborough car parks.

Influenced enhancements to digital broadband speeds with around 90% of the district now able to receive high speed broadband.

Worked with partners, including Department for Work and Pensions, to review and encourage work-placed training, as well as **holding job fairs** and engaging with schools in conjunction with job centre plus.

Provided Licensing pre-application advice to support and grow businesses.

Continued to work closely with colleagues in Food Standards Agency, Health and Safety Executive, Police, and Trading Standards, in order to prevent food fraud/crime and restrict the supply of illegal tobacco products in licensed premises.

Providing the right services, at the right time and in the right way

Reviewed our services and how we operate commercially through the **Moving Forward** transformation programme.

Reduced waiting list for housing and increased speed of housing adaptations delivery.

Agreed investment strategy which will see around **£1m** used to provide new temporary accommodation **to help meet the needs of those who experience homelessness** in the district and keep families together.

Extended Human Resources services to receive additional income around £18,000 including payroll and learning and development courses.

Established a commercial trading arm of the Public Protection team, known as Environmental Health Training and Consultancy (EHT&C). Offering a wide range of advice and training to businesses, including expanding the current range of courses on offer to include online courses, bespoke and on-site training and consultancy.

Developed new digital services including a 'connect and serve' log-in for ARP customers to improve the customer experience and ability to access their benefit information

Created a co-located area at Breckland House in Thetford which is utilised by: Children's Services; Social Workers; Health Visitors; Flagship Homes; Norfolk Constabulary. Fortnightly 'referral' meetings have been established as well as monthly strategic boards. Discussions have been taking place with GPs to determine how they can link into the Help Hub. Also delivering project which will see Department for Work and Pensions co-locate in Breckland House in Thetford, creating a services hub similar to established office in Dereham.

Updated council website's design and functions, promoted new digital options for our services (including via Transforming Breckland residents' magazine), such as application forms and e-payments, which have **made services more accessible** while saving time and money.

Increased recycling rates - from 39.9% in 15/16 to 40.3% in 16/17.

Modernised the committee processes through greater utilisation of Mod.gov.

Re-awarded **Silver Armed Forces Covenant Status** for work supporting servicing Armed Forces Personnel and Veterans.

Worked with businesses around National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, making sure businesses are at least 'broadly compliant'. The number of 3, 4 and 5 rated premises in the district are at record levels.

Recruited a **new legal team** which will support services and ensure the council is legally compliant, assisting with legal matters throughout the council.

Expanded use of **social media** to include regular information about day-to-day service delivery (**#ourbreckland**) as well as short films discussing recent decisions made by the council. Increased social media followers to record levels.

Details of the Rates Relief Scheme for Retail Businesses:

Following on from the Dereham pilot last year, and as part of our wider work to support market towns, we are now rolling out the scheme to Attleborough, Dereham, Swaffham, Thetford and Watton. The initiative aims to reduce the number of empty units in town centres, support new retail businesses and assist existing town centre businesses by increasing footfall.

Under the scheme, eligible new business moving into retail premises could be eligible for up to 80% business rates relief.

Which businesses can apply?

Under the scheme retail businesses – including shops, restaurants and others - who are considering moving into town centre premises in Attleborough, Dereham, Swaffham, Thetford and Watton can apply for a business rates reduction on those premises.

Some empty retail premises outside town centres may also be eligible – applications regarding these can apply through the scheme and will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Potential applicants can find out more about the initiative and eligibility criteria, and see a map showing the scheme boundaries at www.breckland.gov.uk/businessrates

When can businesses apply and when will the reduction come into force?

Businesses can apply to the scheme at any time between now and 31 March 2019, with any business rates reductions coming into force from 1 April 2018 or, going forward, 12 months from the approval date. **The reduction will apply for the first year of trading.**

We are launching the scheme today, and a press release will be issued shortly. Letters to commercial property agents, explaining the scheme, are currently being sent out and the initiative will also be supported through social media.

2018 AGM report Blenheim Grange

Although the estate seems to be in a permanent state of construction with the disruption that situation generates there are signs of progress which gives hope that even if we can't yet see sufficient light at the end of the Tunnel we now have an idea where it's entrance might be.

A solution to the question of road problems caused by them not being adopted is making progress as the work required by Anglian water to install an Actuation tank is underway, hopefully when completed no further obstacles preventing both Anglian Water and County Council from completing the adoption process will manifest themselves, then we hope that the relevant powers can be able to rectify some or all of the worst excesses of irresponsible conduct such as dangerous and inconsiderate parking.

When weather conditions allow the Play area is well and in the main properly used, the general area will be further improved when the goal posts are installed. We do however have outstanding remedial work on the Gate and basketball net to finalise the latter of which can't happen until the Actuation tank work is completed.

Unsurprisingly we have no definitive solution to antisocial issues such as owners not clearing up after their pets and litter primarily alcoholic drink cans and bottles, although both are getting more frequent online mentions and seem to be becoming more widely considered as being unwanted and unacceptable behaviour. The reality is however that without relevant bodies exercising powers they already have the overall situation is unlikely to significantly change.

Work on the wooded areas on the Estate is progressing with the areas at the front of the estate now showing noticeable improvement. At the back of the estate the situation is far less satisfactory with a pressing need for some form of action plan to get proper control of those areas.

We are extremely fortunate to have people who are willing and able to stage events for our younger residents and in this respect Andrew and Julia from the Fountain of Life Church and our own Shaun deserve particular mention and our thanks. In spite of events being widely advertised occasional comments are still heard that some were unaware of what's happening, one area of concern was making residents who normally use a different language aware The Easter event also included a message in Polish in an effort to remedy this.

The events held throughout the year received many favourable and grateful responses my favourite of which was from a Lady whose Daughter was at an age where she was unsure if she should still believe in Father Christmas ,after meeting him in our little cabin the Mother was able to report that her Daughter was entirely convinced that she had met the real Santa and now totally believed in him --- (At least for one more year!)

Heritage Group

This informal village group, open to all, seeks to find out and publicise Carbrooke's rich history. Everyone is most welcome

In 2017 we

- Put on an exhibition in the church of old parish documents dating from 1534
- Unveiled the church information sign
- Sent the parish armour to the Castle Museum to discover it dates back to the Civil War
- Maintained and updated the heritage web-site and face book page
- Put on information evenings about the history of Carbrooke, agriculture and legal documents
- Met bi-monthly to talk about any research and issues of interest
- Hosted a coach tour of historic churches. Carbrooke was included with Norwich Cathedral and Wymondham Abbey
- Organised a trip to the Stanford Battle Area

In 2018 we plan to

- Complete the photographic record of buildings in the village now and their history
- Complete the three information boards with details of historical significance of the village. The draft design has been amended, hopefully the final design will be approved and the boards installed soon
- Continue to welcome visitors tracing their ancestors to the village
- Arrange evenings of heritage interest, This will include medieval instruments on <ay 18th and changes in agriculture on Oct 19th.
- Take part in the Wayland heritage group project about the impact of World War 2 on the village. We are hoping to publish the relevant pages of the school log book 1939-45
- Arrange another visit to the Battle Area
- Consider commemoration of the centenary of the 1918 armistice
- Our AGM is on 6th June at 7pm in the village hall

Carbrooke Parish Council – Carbrooke Church PCC Report
9th April 2018 – Carbrooke Church

Unlike many village churches, and in spite of our low congregation numbers, we are able to hold a service every Sunday, First and third Sunday of month – Communion service, 2nd Sunday - All Age Worship, and Fourth Sunday a Lay Led Service, taken by a different member of our own worship leaders each month. We have special services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

This year we have hosted 3 Baptisms, 2 Funerals - including one with over 350 mourners, but no Weddings. The Church Lottery members are 94, which brings in much needed funds and we would like to thank everyone who supports the Church in this way (an annual ticket of £15 is entered into 12 monthly draws).

We have a new Architect – Ruth Blackman, who is very enthusiastic and has some very creative ideas for our future. She has recommended that due to the state of the tower, the bells are only rung on special occasions.

HLF Our main concern this year has been our Heritage Lottery bid. We would like to express our thanks to Chris Springfield and John Hardy who have put in lots of time and effort, and completed the paperwork required to apply on our behalf. We launched the bid, with a wonderful concert by Emma Nuualle, and the police with a horse entering the building. Unfortunately we were not successful with the bid, as so many other projects were also bidding for the same pot of money. So we are applying again, this time for a larger sum, as we have big plans! Whilst we would will maintain the building as a place of worship, we also realise that we do not have the numbers or funds to keep it as such, and therefore need to consider different ways of using the building for community purposes.

We have considered many ways the church could be used in the future, but this cannot be achieved without renovating and maintaining the building. We would like to create a venue for community use, for public meetings or concerts, craft and holistic fayres, village events, private meeting space, for groups such as Mother & Toddler, teenagers, retired. Above all we feel it would be a super tourist venue, to build on the unique heritage of Carbrooke and the building, and we hope to house a permanent heritage displays /local art, perhaps providing some local employment and attracting people into Carbrooke. We would like to install a permanent kitchen and café area.

This year John Fowler has kept the churchyard maintained, and it has been looking very tidy. We have taken part in the Churchyard Conservation Scheme by Norfolk Wildlife Trust, who found some interesting flora and fauna. (We thank the Parish Council for the grant towards churchyard maintenance).

The Heritage Festival held in the church last year was well supported, and brought in many people from far and wide to find out more about the church and village. Out of this, we had a visitor whose ancestors came from Carbrooke, and who paid for and arranged for the large painting of King David to be restored, it now looks great, a special service with cake and afternoon tea was held in celebration.

We also rediscovered the parts of the Carbrooke Armour, which were feared lost. They were sent to the Norwich Museums Trust and also to the Queens Armourer at the Historic Royal Palaces, who say the armour isn't medieval, but infact from the civil war, and part of the 'village armour', which is very rare. We have been given a quote to restore it, -£2000+ and would also needing a special case to display/keep it safe. We are looking at ways of funding this.

The lovely Church Information Board was also installed in the church yard during the weekend, created by Adrian Talbot.

The school use the church for their monthly assemblies, and we are delighted that the school children have the opportunity to experience the atmosphere of the magnificent building as their own.

The PCC funded an Advent wreath for the school with battery operated candles, and will do for future years, also Bibles for school leavers with inscription plates.

This year we have held 2 village Quizzes in the village hall, which have been well supported, especially the last one where we just managed to squeeze the 16 teams in. Due to the extremely cold weather, we hosted some of the stalls in the church for the Christmas Bazaar, which was a successful community event. The Christmas concert by Chanters Jigge was enjoyable.

We were pleased to be able to host the village Christmas tree, in the churchyard, which looked lovely over the Christmas period, with thanks to the Parish Council for arranging and funding this. It is still looking good, but will be removed when it starts to deteriorate, with the idea of having a permanent living Fir tree in the Churchyard, for the future.

Future Events planned, Flower Festival around the theme of the Church Teddies, as part of the village summer fete, June 30th, we also hope to commemorate the ending of WW1 with a special Remembrance Service on November 11th.

Thank you to everyone who uses, visits or supports the church in any way. The Church is part of our community and for everyone's use. It is open 9.30 – 4pm each day, so all welcome to pop in for a wander around, or to attend the Sunday Services at 10.30am or special events. AGM 15th April 11.45 in the church.

Village Hall Report

The village hall committee this year has been focussed on raising money for the renovation of the hall particularly the toilet area and to improve the disability access. Our fundraising efforts have been fairly successful and we have now raised more than £50,000 for the projects thanks, in particular, to significant grants from Breckland Council and the Trusthouse Forte Foundation.

Since raising the funds, the trustees have commissioned a surveyor to carry out in-depth spec and schedule of works for the hall to ensure we meet all legislation and the surveyor's report is now going out to builders for quotes. The fundraising was carried out on the basis of rough quotes but this in-depth spec has shown that the work could well be more expensive than anticipated. We had hoped to avoid touching the asbestos roof covering the toilet area, for instance, but it is now clear that this is in such poor condition that we are likely to need to replace it for health and safety reasons and to reduce risk. As a result, we have now put in for more grants in an attempt to boost funds further and are engaged in other fundraising activities. Our hope is that we will be able to carry out the work in the summer holidays in order to avoid disrupting the playgroup, who remain the principle users of the hall and so our chief source of regular income. However, this will depend on funding and builders.

The day to day costs of the hall have increased as we are now having to pay for things like the general refuse bin situated outside the hall. As a result, it is all the more important for the hall that the playgroup remains happy with what we offer it. Some of the increased costs have been mitigated by the success of the weekly café and increased numbers at the bar on Friday night. We are also used by other regular clubs, such as ballroom dancing and the heritage group, and a new yoga club has just started. We have been used for Christenings, a significant number of private parties and village events such as the Quiz night showing that, whatever some might say, the village hall remains an important community hub.

I would like to thank all the committee for their support and all those volunteers who have given up their time to keep the hall open and to give up their hours for community events.