

NOVEMBER 2024 – REPORT FROM BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Robin Hunter-Clarke (Hermitage Ward)

Car Parking in Breckland

Further to my last update, the consultation is now live which you can find by visiting <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/car-parks>

I strongly encourage you to feed into the consultation as it affects any of your/our residents who visit any of our market towns: Dereham, Watton, Attleborough, Swaffham and Thetford.

From Cllr Paul Hewett (Cabinet Member for Property, Projects and Procurement)

Each year, the Council allocates approximately £450,000 to maintain our 30 car parks across the five market towns. As we look ahead, we want to ensure that our parking services can continue to meet community needs, while also being financially sustainable. This is why we are exploring cost recovery options, including a modest charging model, which would enable us to maintain and improve our parking facilities, whilst protecting all other Council services.

We understand this is an important change, and we want to design a system that works well for everyone. This consultation has been thoughtfully structured, with proposals such as: designated free parking periods, modest charges (to follow), and potential permits for residents, businesses, and volunteers. We are eager to hear your thoughts on these ideas.

Our commitment to transparency and inclusivity has guided us throughout this process. By contributing your thoughts, you will help us ensure that this new system reflects the diverse needs of our community.

Alongside your completion of this questionnaire, we would greatly appreciate you encouraging your friends and neighbours to either participate online at www.breckland.gov.uk/car-parks (opens in a new window) or to attend one of our engagement events:

- Swaffham Assembly Rooms - Monday, 11 November, 11:00 – 19:00
- Turners in Attleborough - Tuesday, 12 November, 11:00 – 19:00
- Thetford Library - Tuesday, 19 November, 11:00 – 19:00
- Dereham Library - Thursday, 21 November, 11:00 – 19:00

- Adcocks in Watton - Wednesday, 27 November, 11:00 – 19:00

Inspiring Communities Grant Scheme

<https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/grants/groups/breckland-council-inspiring-communities/>

Breckland Council Inspiring Communities is a match funding scheme providing **grants of up to £5,000** for groups working in Breckland District. Applicants can apply for a **maximum of 50% of the total project cost** therefore match funding is required. This can be from your own funds, external funders or in the form of in-kind contributions.

- The funding is for community projects that can demonstrate their alignment to the priorities of the Inspiring Communities programme and the Breckland Health and Wellbeing Partnership (see below):
- **Inspiring Communities Priorities:**
 - To address vulnerability and work with the most disadvantaged members of our communities to improve their life chances, with a focus on:
 - Domestic abuse
 - Mental health
 - Social isolation and loneliness
 - Early intervention projects which prevent escalation into crisis
- **Breckland Health and Wellbeing Priorities:**
 - To enhance the health and wellbeing of Breckland's residents by reducing health inequalities:
 - Preventing cardiovascular disease
 - Improving mental health
 - Tackling issues arising from alcohol dependency and other alcohol related concerns
- ***Please note:*** *The following types of application have not been successful in the first two funding rounds and are therefore unlikely to be funded going forward. Please talk to us before starting an application for these types of project:*
 - *Improvements to play areas; improvements to sports facilities; local history projects; improvements to footpaths; funding for benches and similar items.*
- **How to apply**

- **Step 1** – follow the link below to read the Funding Guide. Make sure your planned work aligns with Breckland Council’s Inspiring Communities or Breckland Health and Wellbeing Priorities (see above).
- **Step 2** – Contact your Breckland ward member(s) – [Find your Councillor](#) – to inform them that you are making an application and ask that they contact Norfolk Community Foundation grants@norfolkfoundation.com to give their view on the importance of your project and explain why they think it meets the Fund priorities. **Please ensure you give them sufficient time to respond before the deadline.**
- **Step 3** – Begin your online application via the Apply Online link below.

Deadline: Friday 6th December (decisions expected in January).

Deadline: Friday 14th March (decisions expected in April).

Further rounds will operate in 2025/26 and 2026/27. Deadlines for these will be advertised in due course.

All applicants must meet NCF’s general [eligibility criteria](#) please check that you meet these before starting an application.

Please ensure that your application is submitted with all of the required supporting information (including your ward member’s support) by the deadline. Applications which are incomplete at the closing date will be deferred until they are complete and may not therefore receive a decision in line with the timescale above.