

## **District Councillor report to Watton Parish Annual Meeting 2022**

Our Future Breckland initiative is ensuring success of our district and Market towns. The 5 market towns are all benefitting from a £300k improvement fund along with a £700k further support for heritage schemes.

50 million £ distributed to our towns and businesses over the last 2 years during covid.

Grants- ensuring money is available for community groups across the district. Breckland Council has provided hundreds of thousands of pounds for local groups for items such as defibrillators, food banks, village hall improvements and play park upgrades.

Making Breckland Sustainable - A commitment to our environment to make Breckland Net zero by 2035 and we are on track. Over £1.2 million to support climate and environmental activities. We are upgrading all Breckland Council owned footway lights to LED's, expanding the network of electric charging points and creating new community funding for groups to get involved and get greener.

Investment in over £1million to support and help those in need. We are having a positive impact on those affected by domestic abuse. Creating a network of mental health support volunteers. We are reducing social isolation and continued with the Silver Social throughout lockdown on line and we continue to fund this scheme. We have created Norfolk's first community shop and rural community food bus. We have built a new housing team to support our most vulnerable residents find safe homes and make adaptations to allow others to remain in their homes. A new building, The Elms in Thetford is complete and will be a safe and secure place for individuals and families who find themselves homeless. Here they will find wrap around care to help them find a permanent home of their own.

We have dedicated staff to deal with anti-social behaviour, animal welfare, illegal dwellings.

Reducing fly tipping and litter, we have a dedicated team who investigate and prosecute more fly-tippers than any other area in Norfolk, reducing incidents by more than 25%. We continue to support community groups with litter picking equipment.

Breckland Council remains the lowest district council tax in the Country. That means that most households will pay less than £100 a year for Breckland services.

Claire Bowes

District Councillor

Watton Ward

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