

District Councillors' report All Saints and Wayland Ward, Breckland Council
May 2023

Sarah Suggitt and Phil Cowen are privileged and honoured to have been re elected to represent the interests of the electorate in the All Saints and Wayland Ward for Breckland Council. We are proud to have played a part in helping to deliver Breckland Council's many achievements of the past four years, details of which can be found here, [Breckland Council - Annual Achievements Report 2021-2022](#) and we look forward to continuing to work with residents, communities and business within the ward to continue the work that Breckland undertook over the past four years in areas such as:

1. Working to support our local environment through the Breckland 2035 initiative delivering for example,
 - a. A reduction in Breckland Council's CO2 emissions by 437 tonnes.
 - b. £850,000 investment in LED streetlights.
 - c. Saved energy at our leisure centres through LED lighting and highly efficient pool covers.
 - d. Successfully prosecuted 100 illegal fly tippers.
 - e. Reduced landfill by collecting small electrical items and batteries alongside our weekly refuse and recycling service.
 - f. Awarded a contract for EV charging points in Swaffham and Watton.
 - g. Planted 700 trees in Attleborough and Watton.
2. Helping our district to thrive by,
 - a. Invested £750,000 to support our High Streets.
 - b. Funded a new electricity sub station in Snetterton to enable economic growth in the heart of Breckland.
 - c. Helped business to bounce back from the pandemic by allocating £4.2 million of funding.
 - d. Supported over 45 new enterprises and created more than 65 jobs within our successful start-up programme.
 - e. Secured £1.6 million for local projects to boost skills and training.
3. Inspired local communities through,
 - a. Investing £4.6 million in emergency housing provision.

- b. Helped domestic abuse survivors with £100,000 support for the Daisy programme.
 - c. Introduced a low-cost local food store and community food bus.
 - d. Trained over 100 residents to become mental health champions.
 - e. Provided a new handyman scheme to allow vulnerable residents to stay in their own homes.
 - f. Awarded over £120,000 to local community projects.
 - g. Continuing to build new energy efficient homes for life across the district through our joint venture company, Breckland Bridge.
 - h. Supported local youth by launching a £10,000 educational bursary scheme.
4. We have changed the way the Council works through our working smarter programme including,
- a. Made our website more user friendly.
 - b. Introduced a 24/7 chatbot to make the service more accessible to all.
 - c. Made £344,000 of true efficiencies in the way the Council operates.
 - d. Maintained and increased our commercial property portfolio income to help to fund our services to residents.
 - e. Processed over £5 million in Council Tax rebates.
 - f. Developed Leadership Development Programmes to increase skill levels of residents.

The Council, in looking to the next four years, intends to build upon all of the above by:

1. Keeping the district charge in the overall council tax bill low through
 - a. Strong financial management
 - b. Providing well run and efficient local services
2. Supporting our communities and our elderly and vulnerable residents by
 - a. Providing a 24/7 service that's available to residents when they may need it.
 - b. Working with partners to deliver dedicated mental health support.
 - c. Providing dedicated officers to support victims of domestic abuse.

3. Protecting our green spaces and environment through
 - a. A positive drive to net zero by 2035.
 - b. Increasing EV charging points across the district.
 - c. Continuing to prosecute fly tippers through the courts.
4. Reducing crime and protecting residents from anti-social behaviour by
 - a. Continuing to help fund county lines enforcement.
 - b. Investing in CCTV.
 - c. Working closely with the police to support rural residents.
5. Supporting our local economy including
 - a. Providing start up grants for qualifying businesses.
 - b. Helping to create skilled and high-quality jobs.
 - c. Delivering opportunities for employment across the district.
6. Providing good quality local services through
 - a. Increased waste collection services at a lower unit cost.
 - b. Investing in emergency housing.
 - c. Reviewing contracts to ensure best value for money is achieved.

Finally, we would like to add our congratulations to the many parish councillors who have been returned to represent their local communities within Breckland. As your Ward representatives we are here to be the bridge between you and Breckland Council and our contact details can be found on the Council website.

Sarah Suggitt and Phil Cowen