



**BRANDON**  
TOWN COUNCIL

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Venue:** Brandon Town Council, Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon, IP27 0AA  
**Date:** Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
**Time:** 6:30pm

To the Local Government Electors of the Parish of Brandon. You are hereby invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting to be held at Brandon Town Council, Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 6:30pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss matters relating to the parish of Brandon.

Councillor Phil Wittam  
Chair

20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### **AGENDA**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
To receive and approve apologies for absence.
- 2. MINUTES**  
To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.
- 3. CHAIRMAN ANNUAL REPORT**  
To receive a verbal report regarding the year 2025/26, presented by Councillor Phil Wittam.
- 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
To receive verbal reports from Chairs of Council Committees:  
4.1 Events Committee Councillor June Hughes
- 5. REPORTS FROM CHARITIES**  
To receive written reports from Charities.
- 6. S137 GRANTS**  
To receive verbal/written reports from S137 grant recipients for the year 2025/26.
- 7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**  
Electors on the current electoral register may ask questions and we respectfully ask that questions be submitted in writing, in advance, to allow the Town Clerk to facilitate full and meaningful answers.





**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**OLD SCHOOL HOUSE BRANDON**  
**MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025 6.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillors: Wittam (Chair), Brocklehurst, Bland, Challiss, Gorringe, Hughes, KostECKI, Lukaniuk, Savage, Siebert, Watts. Clerk: Cunnell, Minute Taker: Prior

**MINUTES**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr M Pinnell, Cllr S. Skinner.

**2. MINUTES**

To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**RESOLVED**

**3. CHAIRMAN ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chairman, Cllr Wittam gave the following report:-

- Thanked Councillors for their sterling work.
- Thanked all staff, Town Keepers do a marvellous job.
- Thanked Tina Cunnell the Town Clerk. Passed probation and is now a full time member of staff.
- Projects going ahead in Brandon include:-
- Slipway initiative.
- Queen Remembrance Garden.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

To receive verbal reports from Chairs of Council Committees:

**4.1 New Cemetery Committee - Councillor Gary Brocklehurst**

Cllr Brocklehurst as Chair of the New Cemetery Committee reported:-

- Started project years ago, with planning applications being made.
- Residents wanted to see progression on the project.
- No figures on cost can be given currently until response from planning application is received.
- Possibility of a full Archaeology survey and raising the ground level, if so Council will look into funding.
- Lots of rumours about what will happen to the land if not used as a cemetery but this will be addressed as part of the process.
- Once planning is in, plan for a public consultation, once response is received.
- Thanked consultants and committee members.

- 4.2 Planning Committee - Councillor Gary Brocklehurst  
Cllr Brocklehurst as Chair of the Planning Committee reported:-
- Over the past year, met twelve times and discussed twenty-eight planning applications, five relating to trees or Tree Preservation Orders.
  - Due to low number of planning applications, decision made to streamline the planning process
  - Planning discussions now in Full Council meetings.
  - Future agendas focus on applications of significant local interest.
  - Chair and Vice Chair review applications to determine if addition to Full Council agenda is necessary.

Cllr Hughes arrived at 7.00 P.M.

- 4.3 Events Committee - Councillor June Hughes  
Mrs Prior a member of the Events Committee gave the following report:-
- D Day Celebration in May, at the Remembrance Playing Fields, where the beacon created by the town team was lit. Event well supported.
  - 2024 was first year to provide free summer activities for local children. These were well attended and looking at providing more this year.
  - Remembrance Sunday road closure went well. Service well attended.
  - Christmas Fair was successful, raising £420 for the Mark Skinner Campaign, our chosen charity. Christmas Fair was well attended with positive feedback.
  - Apple Blossom Day in the Orchard on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and VE Day celebrations on 8<sup>th</sup> May on Market Hill.
  - Thanked everyone involved with the events.

## 5. REPORTS FROM CHARITIES

Written reports from Charities received and noted.

## 6. S137 GRANTS

Verbal reports from S137 grant recipients for the year 2024/25.

Glade Academy gave the following report:-

- Thanked the Council for the funds, made a huge impact.
- Increase in children attending, more settled coming into school.
- Purchased a wider variety of fruit and cereal. Also buying waffles, pancakes, brioche, juices and hot chocolate.
- Children learning to get their breakfast and wash up independently.
- Purchased learning resources, to do after breakfast.
- Presented the Council with a thank you card/booklet from the children.
- Councillors welcome to attend breakfast club.

Fledgelings gave the following report:-

- Photos distributed of sensory room.
- Sensory room for children struggling with school life, a quiet area for all.
- Improving childrens development having the sensory room, with example given.
- Helping children with transition to High School.
- Thanked the Council for the grant.

Brandon Creative Forum gave the following report:-

- Grateful for money received from the Council.
- Can now produce our first mosaic.
- Also purchased sets of tools and basic materials.
- Trialling smaller mosaics and will start full size in next few weeks.
- Encouraged to complete a further series of mosaics, showing Town as it was invited.
- Community to join them, to make it a community project.
- Further funding from the Prosperity fund & with RBL have enabled crafting sessions whilst RBL provided a free breakfast, during school holidays.
- Thanked again for the Councils support.

SARS gave the following report:-

- Grateful for double funding given.
- Respond to four emergencies a month.
- Two calls already on 1<sup>st</sup> May.
- SARS runs on donations only.
- First on scene to 26% of calls.
- Currently recruiting to join SARS as paramedics.
- Doctor on road in car, a year costs £50,000.
- Aim remains to help the community the best we can.

Friends of Brandon Station gave the following report:-

- Thanked the Council for the grant money received.
- Financial statement given of how money spent.
- Since group formed in June 2024, a website has been set up.
- £4 million pounds to be spent on the project.
- Their project will bring jobs to area.
- Weeting are being kept informed of the progress.
- Funding will pay for printing costs, flyers and a banner.

Brandon Festival and Brandon Football Club, sent in written reports.

## **7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public asked if the new cemetery was still a stand alone committee or part of the Full Council meeting. It was explained to the member of the public that it would be part of a Full Council meeting but if necessary, a separate meeting would be called.

Cllr Siebert, as the RBL manager commented they were lucky to have received funding from both Brandon Town Council and the Prosperity Fund which has enabled her to work with most of the people, at the meeting. Working together makes Brandon great and achieve good things. The RBL have provided free breakfasts for over 100 children and free afternoon tea for 40 senior members of Brandon, with the funding.

The meeting closed at 7.25 P.M.

Chairman

Date



# *Lingheath and Atmere Charities*

lingheath.atmere@gmail.com

Registered Address: 16 Manor Road Brandon Suffolk IP27 0LG

## **Lingheath and Atmere Charity Report 2025**

### **History**

The Lingheath and Atmere are two separate charities but with different revenue sources. However, they are run side by side since they have the same trustees and have the same general aim i.e. to help the poor and needy of Brandon.

The **Atmere Charity** stems from a gift of £60 made by Edmund Atmere in 1579 for the benefit of the poor in five local parishes. This sum was invested and Brandon's share of the fund now comes to about £3,000 a year.

The **Lingheath** land was given to the people of Brandon in approx. 1795 as a result of the Enclosures Act. It became common land and was also one of the places where Brandon people could dig for flints and purchase them for a nominal amount. The many hundreds of flint mines were filled in during the 19th and 20th centuries, and the land given over to arable farming.

The farm is 116 acres and there are also about 68 acres of forest. A cottage was built on the land in the 19th century for the use of the tenant farmer. Five years ago, the cottage was fully renovated and it is now rented out separately from the farm. The rent for the farm and the cottage provide the bulk of the revenue for the Lingheath Trust.

### **The Present**

At the moment, the cottage is rented by a young American couple who work on the base.

The farm has been rented, for one year, to Pretoria Energy, a company which operates an anaerobic digestion facility in Cambridge, leading to the production of renewable gas and electricity.

The Lingheath Farm is once again available to rent this year. Letting details may be obtained from Lacy Scott in Bury St Edmunds.

This last year, the charities have continued to help those in need in Brandon. We can help with most reasonable requests, including buying household items and furniture, wheelchairs, fitting of gas appliances, installation of showers, purchase of fuel vouchers etc. In the last few months alone, we have paid for roof repairs, bought 7 specialist pens to help dyslexic pupils at Forest Academy, to add to the 7 we bought last year. The pens cost nearly £200 each and have proved very successful. The trust has also pledged £10,000 towards an Innowalker for a disabled young girl in Brandon.

Brandon Town Council has the right to choose two people to act as trustees. Their term of

office lasts for four years. The persons chosen need not be councillors but usually are. They are not Council representatives but act independently as trustees. The Council trustees are Phil Wittam and Sam Skinner.

Please feel free to direct anyone in need to the charities. We are here to help.

Angela Vant (Chair of Lingheath and Atmere Charities)

## **Brandon Poores Estate, Humphrey Hall & Wash Charity**

In the year to 31 March 2025 Brandon Poor's Estate have continued to make necessary improvements to the Hall Close almshouses wherever needed. The repairs to the paths are still ongoing as are the installation of free standing rails and grab handles. The regular gardener continues to maintain the grounds and residents continue to have their windows cleaned on the outside. The Quinquennial Survey has still yet to be carried out due to the unexpected difficulty in procuring a surveyor. The Trustees have commenced a detailed inspection of the almshouses every six months, in an effort to abide by the ever increasing legislation.

Currently, following the sad death of one of our residents, a major refurbishment is taking place before advertising for a new replacement resident.

Minor maintenance problems have arisen over the past year and were all dealt with immediately. Residents contact the Clerk directly in the event of a problem and there is a good relationship between them and the Trustees.

Due to the increase in work, not least, created by the Regulator for Social Housing and the Housing Ombudsman the Trustees have appointed an Assistant Clerk.

Lastly, Brandon Poores have a vacancy for a Co-optive Trustee. The only qualification is that you reside or carry on a business in or near Brandon and the term is for five years. If you would be interested in joining our merry little band of Trustees, we would be delighted to welcome you, then email the Clerk on [brandonpoorsestate@gmail.com](mailto:brandonpoorsestate@gmail.com).

Penny Etherington  
Clerk



## **Brandon Remembrance Playing Field**

### **Activities for year 2024/25**

The bulk of the money from the precept goes on staff wages; the groundsman is a full time employee which makes it the major cost for the Playing Field.

We have been able to support activities throughout the year for the Council and private individuals such as the Pride Event, Council run childrens' events in the summer, Brandon Festival, Summers Fair, D Day Remembrance, wild swimming and the Duke of Edinburgh Award; we are still looking towards increasing activities on the river where possible.

Maintenance of the field is continuous. The moles are now better under control as we have entered into a contract with a pest control company, which is working well. The potholes are still being filled on a temporary basis. We are hoping that a better solution will be found in the coming year.

The skatepark remains an issue. Actions have been taken with a different approach to planning, and we are hopeful that this will be resolved in 2025. A substantial amount of money has been paid to a contractor to repair what is feasible on the existing equipment, but there is persistent vandalism that we have been unable to resolve.

Work has started on a "Memorial Garden" for the late Queen on the area of land that goes down to the river. The area has been cleared and this work is being carried on in 2025 with the next phase being levelling, top soil for banking and grass seeding. We have missed the window for tree planting, so that will be put back until the Autumn. Seating is to be bought for the Garden area and a few other places around the Field, depending on available funding.

The tennis court has had a major overhaul with cleaning and weeding in preparation for the summer in 2025 and is looking in really good condition. Hopefully the appearance will attract more users in the coming season.

The Football Club have installed a borehole for the Playing Field to facilitate watering, which is becoming a necessity with the uncertain and extreme weather conditions we experience now.

Steps have been taken with the Land Registry to secure the future safety of the Playing Field to ensure that it will be available for the enjoyment of the people of Brandon for many years to come.

/bj 05/04/2025



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**Fwd: Funding from Brandon Town Council**

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From Sam

Date Tue 22/04/2025 06:57

To Brandon Town Council <office@brandon-tc.gov.uk>

Good morning

Please see below comments from my chairman on the grant money

Again we as a club can't thank you enough for your support

Regards

Sam

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mike Doyle

**Date:** 21 April 2025 at 21:27:01 BST

**To:** Sam Sheppard Officer & U9

**Subject: Funding from Brandon Town Council**

Hi Sam,

Following the email from Brandon Council below, I can confirm that we used the generous donation from the town towards the cost of new equipment, including footballs, bibs and cones.

Specifically this equipment was used to provide the essentials needed to the new 'Soccer Saturday' group, made up of 5 year olds.

We are very grateful for the support we received, please do pass our thanks on once more to the council.

Warm Regards,  
Mike Doyle,  
Chair of BTCFC.



# BRANDON



# FESTIVAL

**Annual BTC Town Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025**

**Report from Brandon Festival 2024**

Brandon Festival 2024 took place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August and ran from 11.30 am until shortly after 8pm. It is a family festival for all ages and is the largest community event to be held on the BRPF. A full report of the event is published on the Brandon Community Union Facebook page and also on our own Facebook page. Photographs taken on the day are also published on our Facebook page. Sadly, with the demise of the Brandon Life, the annual report and photographs are no longer delivered to all homes in Brandon.

Brandon Festival 2024 was the largest event yet since it was re-started in 2019. In excess of 1,000 people attended during the course of the event. The weather was glorious and there was a variety of family entertainment including live music, singers, children's dance and twirling, circus, a DJ/host and a live band as well as numerous games and activities. The attractions, food vendors and stallholders did Brandon proud.

The contribution from Brandon Town Council in 2024 paid for the insurance and the licence so that the event can go ahead. This contribution represents less than 50p per head of those attending and organising the event. As we only request a contribution every 2 years from BTC this contribution really represents less than that, at around 25p per head. Most of those involved in bringing the event to the Brandon community are volunteers and the event would not be the success it has become without a huge shout out and thanks to those who have been involved. This event is a joint effort in bringing family fun and entertainment to the Brandon community.

Our thanks go to:

Brandon businesses and Brandon market stallholders (with special thanks to Brandon Town Football Club, Rory J Holbrook, MLT Transport, Travis Perkins)

The Brandon Remembrance Playing Field and staff

The Sports & Social Club

Brandon Town Council and staff, West Suffolk Council

The entertainers, dancers and musicians (many of whom give their services for free or at reduced cost)

The stallholders who are always smiling

Our committee and volunteers

The 2025 event will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August with many returning stallholders and some new stallholders who have heard of our event's success. There will be new and returning entertainers and we are hoping for some new offerings from Summers Fair. Please come and support the event on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August.

Brandon Festival Committee/14.04.2025



## **Brandon Poors Estate, Humphrey Hall and Wash Charities Report 2025/26**

During the year the Trustees have continued to meet the objectives of the charities by offering residential accommodation at the seven almshouses owned by Brandon Poor's Estate in Hall Close, Coulson Lane, Brandon, for qualifying almshouse residents. Services provided include heating, an alarm system, external window cleaning and communal grounds maintenance.

The almshouse residents pay weekly contributions towards maintenance and for the heating, the maintenance charge rates vary for single occupancy dwellings or double occupancy dwellings and was increased in April 2025. All dwellings are unfurnished. Otherwise the charities' income arises from investments and land leases.

Brandon Poor's have continued to make necessary improvements to the Hall Close almshouses wherever needed. The installation of free standing rails and grab handles is still a work in progress. The regular gardener continues to maintain the grounds and residents continue to have their windows cleaned on the outside. Sadly the beautiful flowering cherry tree had to be felled as it was unsafe, but residents can look forward to a replacement this autumn.

The Trustees have commenced a programme of detailed inspections of the almshouses every six months, in an effort to abide by the ever increasing legislation and keep up to date with problems.

The major activity was the Trustees approved the total replacement of footpaths at the front of Hall Close. The old concrete paths, which were breaking up, were replaced with asphalt paths edged and widened slightly to accommodate mobility scooters. This is a much appreciated improvement and made access safer and easier.

Following the sad death of a resident, a replacement was found locally and approved to take up residence immediately.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in July at St Peter's Centre and attended by 7 residents. A tea/coffee and slice of cake were enjoyed by all. This was an opportunity for residents to voice any concerns or problems, and get to know Trustees and it was much enjoyed with requests for further get togethers.

The usual minor maintenance problems have arisen over the past year and were all dealt with as quickly as possible. It is increasingly difficult to find a suitable tradesperson and we are in the process of re-establishing contacts. Residents contact the Clerk directly in the event of a problem and there is a good relationship, the majority preferring face to face contact.

Penny Etherington  
Clerk to the Trustees



## **Lingheath and Atmere Charities**

[lingheath.atmere@gmail.com](mailto:lingheath.atmere@gmail.com)

### **Charity Report 2025-2026**

The Lingheath and Atmere are two separate charities, and with two different revenue sources. However, they are run side by side since they have the same trustees and have the same aim i.e. to help the poor and needy of Brandon.

#### **The Atmere Charity**

The Atmere Charity shares a yearly dividend with five other local parish charities. The income derives from a sum of £60 invested by Edmund Atmere in 1579. Brandon's share of the dividend comes to approximately £3,000. This year, the trustees donated £2,000 from the fund to The Harvest Centre for their food bank.

#### **The Lingheath Charity**

The Lingheath consists of a farm of 116 acres of arable land, 68 acres of woodland and a 3-bedroom cottage. As trustees, our first duty is to preserve and protect the property so that the revenue it provides can be used for the benefit of the poor in Brandon, now and in the future.

##### ***Lingheath Farm***

Starting in October 2025, the Trust entered into a three year tenancy agreement with Kiwi Partnership Ltd. It is good to see the land cultivated and considering the parlous state of farming and agriculture at the moment, it brings in a reasonable income for the Trust.

##### ***Lingheath Cottage***

This is rented to a young American couple who work on the base. It generates about £10,000 a year for the Trust. A fair amount of this income is spent on maintenance of the cottage, eg. insurance, repairs, water treatments, septic tanks, multiple safety inspections. This year, the old borehole which supplies water to the cottage collapsed and a new borehole had to be dug out and fitted at a cost of £16,000.

##### ***Lingheath Woodland***

Every ten years or so, the trustees employ contractors to "thin" the woodland, cutting out dead, diseased and overcrowded trees and then selling the felled wood. This time, the wood-felling generated a very welcome £19,000 for the Trust!

### ***Lingheath Donations***

This year, the Lingheath charity has made contributions towards

Disabled toilet facilities at St Peter's Community Centre

Funeral expenses

Purchase of furniture

Food vouchers

Roof repairs

Our biggest donation this year was £10,000 towards the purchase of an Innowalker for a disabled local girl.

Please feel free to direct anyone in need to the charities, We are here to help.

Angela Vant (Chair Lingheath and Atmere Charities)

[angelavant9@gmail.com](mailto:angelavant9@gmail.com)

Mob: 07941 264 198

## **Brandon Remembrance Playing Field**

### **Activities for year 2025/26**

The bulk of the funds from the precept again goes on staff wages; the full-time groundsman is the major cost for the Playing Field, along with insurances which combined take the allocation each year.

Activities during the year have been Brandon Pride, Brandon Festival, Council run summer activities for children, river activities, and GOBA have expressed an interest in using moorings, which is being investigated in the coming year to make better use of the river.

Maintenance of the Field is continuous. Moles, rabbits and wasps are under control thanks to the pest control company that regularly visits. The roadway continues to be a source of potholes, which have been temporarily repaired, and this will continue to be carried out as and when until we are able to source funding for a more permanent solution.

The skatepark situation we hope will be resolved in the coming year. We have joined forces with Mark Skinner for a combined Skatepark and Play Area project, to replace the Skatepark and existing play equipment. We have been allocated some funding from West Suffolk and with funds already raised, we hope there will be enough to get planning approval and make a start on construction.

The Memorial Garden, as a place of peace and reflection, is well on its way to completion. Some hedging trees have been planted, with specimen trees purchased along with benches and rose bushes which will be planted starting this Spring. We aim for the project to be completed by the summer. Many thanks to Councillor Phil Wittam for the grant funding he obtained for us to enable the necessary groundworks to be completed to a good standard and to cover the cost of the trees.

The tennis court overhaul has worked well with income from the bookings more than double from the previous year.

We also completed the design and installation of our own website to facilitate sharing information and taking bookings, with links to bowling club, allotments, fishing club, football clubs and leisure centre. Many thanks to Councillor Lukaniuk for securing the funding to help pay for the domain name and setting up costs.

The Land Registry project has also been completed to secure the safety and continuity of the Playing Field for the future. This was a lengthy and costly process, but worth the effort.

/bj 07/04/2026





We as Brandon Creative Forum were very grateful to Brandon Town Council for giving us funding towards a mosaic project that we had been considering undertaking for a while.

The funding received has allowed us to produce our first mosaic which has now been completed by our group members and installed for all to see at Brandon Country Park.

We were able to purchase sets of the first basic tools to enable us to carry out the work and to purchase most of the basic materials and additional more specialised tools and materials for us to complete the entire mosaic. Additionally, it enabled us to trial various smaller mosaics to hone our skills before tackling the big one. In time these will be framed and go on display in the town as well.

Jill Hopper  
Co-ordinator  
Brandon Creative Forum



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**Donation to SARS - Suffolk Accident Rescue Service in June 2025**

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**From** Jenny Day <jenny.day@sars999.org.uk>  
**Date** Wed 11/03/2026 12:41  
**To** Brandon Town Council <office@brandon-tc.gov.uk>

Dear Donna,

Further to your email on 23<sup>rd</sup> February inviting us to your annual meeting. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend your annual general meeting on 30th April my sincere apologies.

I have spoken to our finance department, and I can confirm that your very kind donation of £500 back in June 2025 was put towards extending our resource's/equipment such as monitor accessories, specialist splints, bone casts, drugs, blankets, fuel for our local responders.

Your support is invaluable and we are extremely grateful to you and all members of the town council. Please do pass this on to everyone on my behalf.

Best regards,

*Jenny*

Jenny Day  
Fundraising Officer  
Email: [jenny.day@sars999.org.uk](mailto:jenny.day@sars999.org.uk)  
Tel: 01359 244186  
[www.sars999.org.uk](http://www.sars999.org.uk)

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**Re: Town Meeting - Thursday 30th April 2025 - 6.30pm**

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**From** Donna Petriello <wired.inspired@outlook.com>

**Date** Fri 27/03/2026 08:57

**To** Brandon Town Council <office@brandon-tc.gov.uk>

Good Morning,

Thank you very much for your invitation to the Annual Town Meeting on 30th April. Unfortunately, both Sherre and I will be unable to attend due to our work commitments. We appreciate the opportunity to share our progress, so I wanted to update you on how the grant funding has been used so far.

To date, we've primarily used the grant to cover room hire costs, which has played a vital role in enabling us to hold our group sessions regularly. Looking ahead, we have exciting plans for the summer: we intend to use some of the remaining grant funds for days out with the group, as well as a variety of activities that will further enrich everyone's experience.

We are grateful for the support from Brandon Town Council and look forward to sharing more updates as our projects develop. If you need any further information or would like a more detailed report, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Donna Petriello



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Re: Annual Town Meeting - Thursday 30th April 2026 - 6.30pm

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From committee@bdlhs.org <committee@bdlhs.org>

Date Tue 07/04/2026 21:59

To Brandon Town Council <office@brandon-tc.gov.uk>

📎 2 attachments (2 MB)

Viking 4410504726\_1.pdf; Viking Display Board.jpg;

Hi Donna,

**Re. Grant Funding to Brandon & District Local History Society**

I am not planning on attending the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026. I would however like to submit a report to you regarding the grant funding that we received from you recently.

The £250 has been spent on purchasing TWO 3-PANEL FOLDING DISPLAY BOARDS. We have received the boards and we intend to start compiling a history display ready for the Brandon Heritage Week in September of this year. I can say that we are very pleased and grateful for the funding and that it will help us to put on a good exhibit for the event.

I have enclosed TWO ATTACHMENTS on this email - the invoice from the supplier, and a photo of the purchase so you can be assured that we have spent the grant money as you would expect.

Thanks again for your help to the History Society.

Regards

Steve Dingley (Secretary, BDLHS)

Sent from Outlook for Mac





## Update for Brandon Town Council

St Nicholas Hospice Care is enormously grateful for your donation of £750 in February 2026 which paid for additional kitchen equipment such as knives, crockery and storage containers. These are essential items which enable our chefs to produce three meals a day for patients on the ward; bake cakes for family and visitors as well as providing lunch which is served (at a small cost) in our bistro for both busy doctors and nurses and visiting families. Thank you so very much for this donation which is hugely appreciated.

Last year our community Nursing Team provided specialist care and support to 75 patients in their own homes in the Brandon area whilst 20 patients were admitted to our ward for 24/7 care.

In March 2026 Linda Challis, Gary Brocklehurst and Jools Savage came to the Hospice to look around and find out a bit more about what we do. We were delighted to offer them a selection of cakes baked by our catering team and these seemed to be much appreciated.

## Other news

- Complementary Therapies

Our Complementary Therapy service has continued to expand so that more patients, carers and families can experience the benefits of aromatherapy, reflexology and gentle massage. This growth shows how essential these therapies are for emotional and physical wellbeing, while also easing pressure on other teams.

- Electronic prescribing

We have introduced Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration on our Sylvan Ward. EPMA replaces traditional paper-based prescribing with a full digital system designed to enhance accuracy, reduce the potential for medication errors, and streamline medicines management across the ward. This means safer processes, clearer communication, and an even higher standard of care for those we support.

- Out of Hours support

Our Out of Hours Specialist Palliative Care Service was launched in July 2025 and aims to help people to remain where they feel most comfortable and avoid unnecessary hospital admissions. It is staffed overnight by a Specialist Paramedic and a Hospice Care Assistant and ensures that people receiving palliative care at home can access expert support when night-time worries feel greatest. In its first six months, the team supported 224 patients and 99.68% of people were able to remain at home, in line with their wishes.

Victoria Bowman

**Trusts and Grants Lead**

[Victoria.bowman@stnh.org.uk](mailto:Victoria.bowman@stnh.org.uk)

# The Brandon Mural

A project by MarketPlace Arts



# MARKETPLACE ARTS

Our mission is to ensure everyone has the opportunity to create and enjoy high-quality, ambitious creative experiences where they live.

We create exciting projects in **West Suffolk and Fenland**, across seven market towns, from Brandon, Mildenhall, and Newmarket to Chatteris, March, Whittlesey, and Wisbech.

We produce a wide range of creative projects all year round. From **all day festivals, to art installations, creative workshops, theatre to storytelling**; there's something for everyone.

**Every project is co-created with the communities they're** happening in, ensuring authentic and meaningful experiences for all.



Mildenhall Art Road Trip, 2025



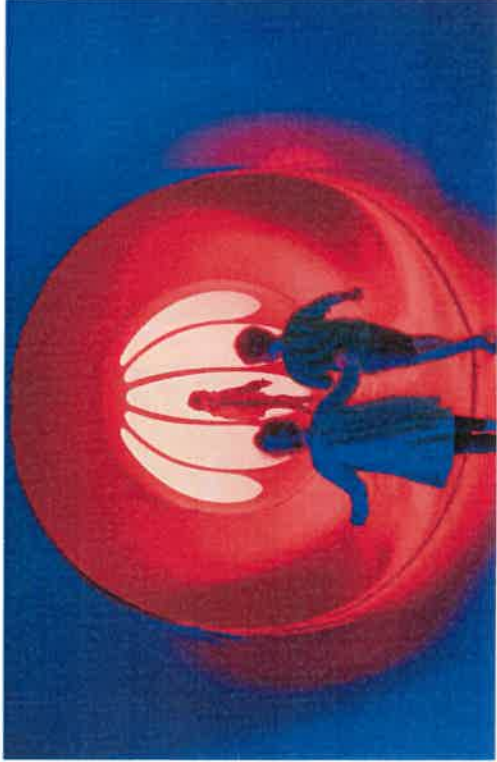
Wisbech Rose Fair, 2024



Light Up The Town Brandon, 2026



Lumini, Newmarket, 2026



We're proud to be part of Creative People and Places, an Arts Council England initiative backed by National Lottery funding.

This network of 42 projects across England focuses on areas where people have fewer opportunities to engage with arts and culture, **putting communities in the lead to shape their own creative experiences.**



# We've been working in Brandon for 11 years...



Created the performance area in Brandon Country Park in 2023



Created the interactive audio trail in Brandon Country Park in 2020



Fire and Flint Festival 2017



Light Up The Town 2025



Founded Brandon Creative Forum in 2016



'Tails and Trails' festival in Brandon Country Park 2019

# What is the Light Up The Town project about?



St Mary's church, Newmarket, 2025



Participants at Brandon Circle coffee morning collaging images from Brandon in Bloom



An image of the Orchard provided by Ali, town keeper

Light Up The Town is an annual light art project that aims to bring people together in the blue months after the festive season.

When community members might feel isolated, at this time of year when much of the landscape is dark and dormant, we bring light artworks that celebrate the local environment and the oncoming spring.

The project is about using **creative experiences to support wellbeing and social connection** while exploring our natural world.

# Light Up The Town 2026 - Brandon: 6 & 7 March



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Henry Driver's Water Portals creating an immersive, interactive experience about climate adaptation inside St Peter's church + projection art workshops on site

Lit tractor display with O. W Wortley & Sons farm of the Breckland Farmers Wildlife Network

Co-created uv glowing mural with Brandon Teen Chill and Luke McDonnell at Brandon Heritage Centre

# Why did we make the mural?



Emma Cammack's artwork on Brandon high street

BRANDON MURAL MOCK UP V3



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- This project was designed to respond to local need. We know through community-led activity around painting electricity boxes on the high street that there is **an enthusiasm for public art**.
- Following The Brandon Report, we know locals residents find their **connection to nature** the most enjoyable part of living in Brandon. We knew a piece of permanent artwork to recognise this and bring that connection to nature into the town centre would be cherished.
- There is a lack of opportunity for activity for teens/ young people in the town. Evidence shows giving people power in the production process means it is less likely to be vandalised

***“We have never been offered an external session for our group in Brandon.” - Lucy, Active Communities Lead, Brandon Leisure & Health Hub***

# How did it work?



- **MarketPlace Arts** led two free, private engagement sessions for **Brandon Teen Chill**. We explored Brandon after dark and gathered ideas about our local green spaces. The teens were then invited to create mural designs of their own. The artwork from these sessions was sent directly to a professional mural artist, who used it as inspiration for the final design.
- **36 teens benefited from free creative engagement activities.** Unlike Newmarket and Mildenhall Teen Chill groups, Brandon has not had a guest facilitator offer free activities to the group before. This demonstrates our commitment to working with groups who do not have the opportunity to access arts and culture in their communities.
- The mural was installed at Brandon Heritage Centre. The wall is owned by West Suffolk Council so the **ownership is protected**. It is accessible 24/7 and next to free parking access. It is walkable from the town centre and a popular passing route by incoming traffic of both residents and visitors.

# Brandon Town Council funding

## Expenditure

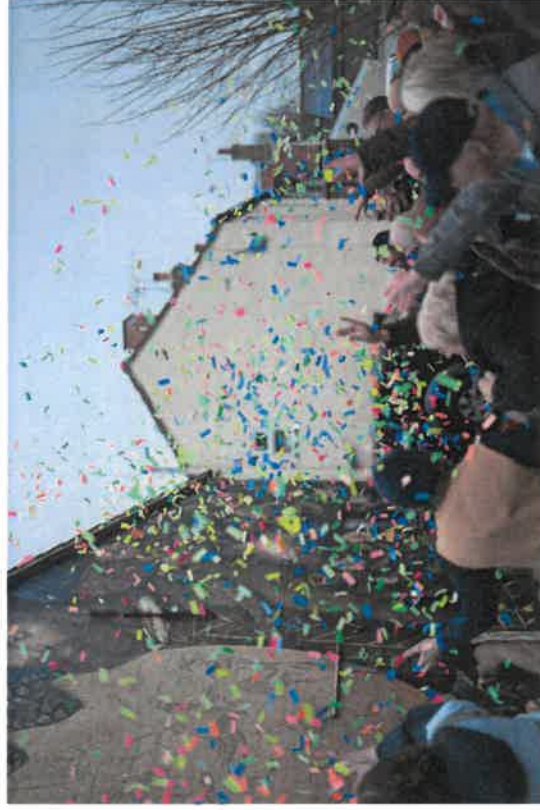
- £5000 mural artist fee
- £850 materials and logistics to facilitate the production of the mural
- £2500 filmmaking fee to document the mural process
- £125 photography fee
- £400 staff costs and materials for Teen Chill engagement sessions
- £6000 staff costs for Light Up The Town project management
- **Total: £14,875**

## Income

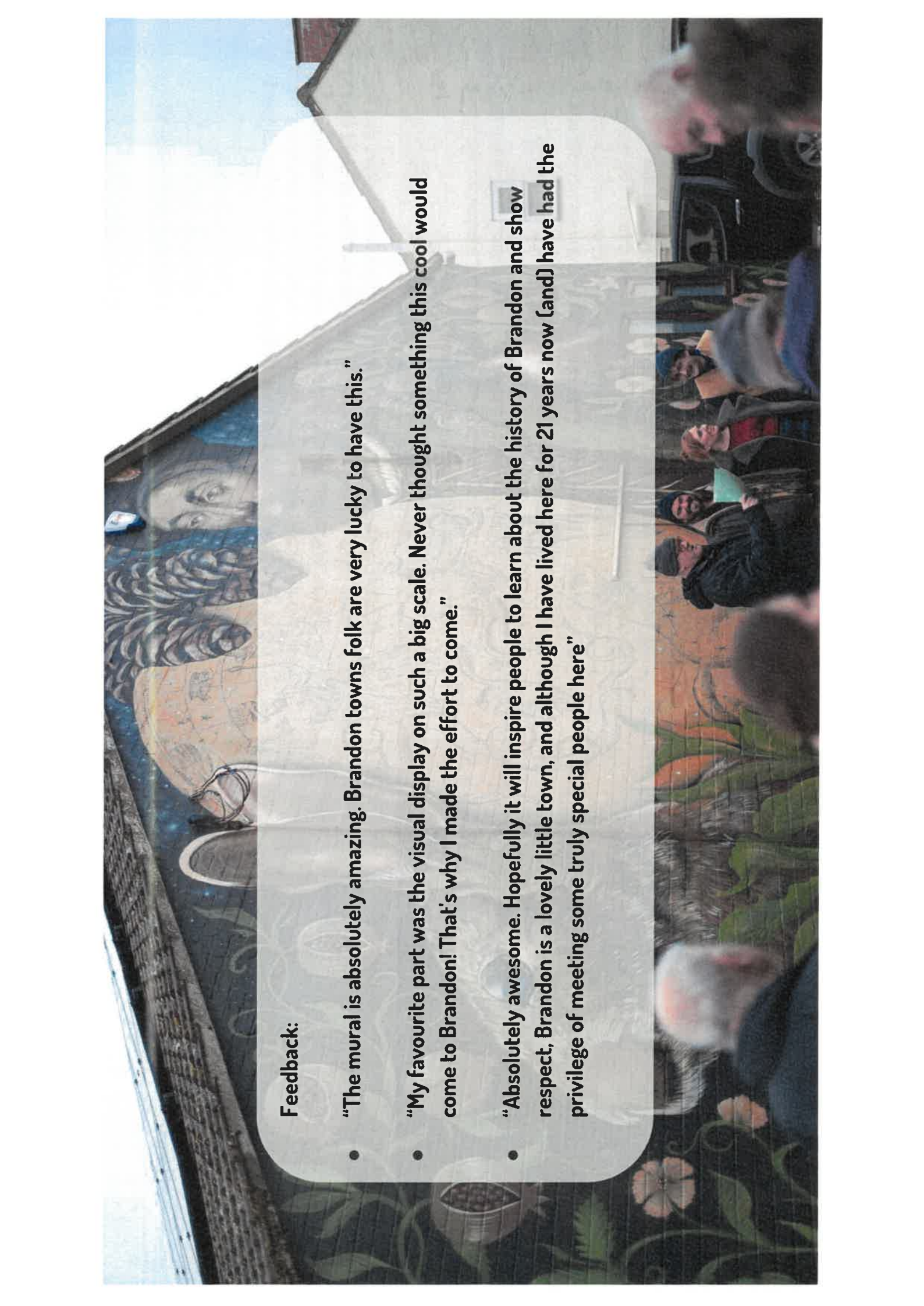
- £2000 Brandon Town Council (40% mural artist fee contribution)
- £12,875 MarketPlace Arts
- **Total £14,875**



## How was it received?



- The mural was unveiled as part of a wider programme of free, creative events during our **Light Up The Town** light art evening in Brandon in March 2026 which attracted hundreds of visitors.
- **358 people attended Light Up The Town in Brandon** which marks just the first 2 nights of the mural's presence. It will continue to go on to be of permanent benefit to the town. Murals can last for 10-20 years outdoors with proper preparation and materials.
- **UV torches have been gifted to Brandon Heritage Centre** so that events and open evenings can be led by the site and will allow future opportunities for groups to engage with the UV elements in the mural.



**Feedback:**

- **“The mural is absolutely amazing. Brandon towns folk are very lucky to have this.”**
- **“My favourite part was the visual display on such a big scale. Never thought something this cool would come to Brandon! That’s why I made the effort to come.”**
- **“Absolutely awesome. Hopefully it will inspire people to learn about the history of Brandon and show respect, Brandon is a lovely little town, and although I have lived here for 21 years now (and) have had the privilege of meeting some truly special people here”**

# What's next for the mural?

- We are creating an **educational resource** about the story of the mural which will include historical information and the significance of the different elements of the mural. The intention is for this document to form lesson plans for local schools and context for group trips. This will be shared on our website and with any interested parties.
- We are in the process of a rebrand for the charity and when this is complete we will **commission a permanent plaque** for the mural and **release the film** which has been created.
- Light Up The Town 2027... we are very pleased to share that we have plans to **return to Brandon for a third edition of Light Up The Town**. We would love to hear about what local communities would like to see and are planning a series of co-creation activities in the coming months. **We would be grateful for further support from Brandon Town Council.**
- MarketPlace Arts is agreeing a maintenance plan between the Heritage Centre and Council to ensure long term sustainability.



## Any questions?

Please email

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