

District Councillors report to 24 March 2022

As you know restrictions have been lifted regarding covid but it is up to us all for our own personal responsibility. Covid hasn't gone away and people who test positive are urged to remain at home. I know from personal experience you don't really want to leave home! County takes the lead and gives regular updates.

As regards Mid Suffolk Employees a transition plan is being developed to help them get back to Endeavour House. I envisage a hybrid type of working from home and office.

The terrible war and invasion in Ukraine has left the world speechless and I am sure everyone has been doing as much as they can.

At the full Council on Monday the whole council voted in support of a motion decrying the dreadful invasion and war and support for the people of Ukraine

There was excellent attendance at the meeting in Debenham at the Leisure Centre on Wednesday 23 March at 7pm to discuss how help can be offered locally. Cllr Hicks advised to log into SCC website and Caroline Driver, who had organised the event, had excellent slides to direct people to the various websites to register their offers of help. It is fast moving and questions are as yet unanswered but everyone is ready as soon as they are able to assist in anyway they can.

I am sure you are all aware that there was no increase to the Council tax for 2022/2023 and that has been down to the excellent stewardship of the Council's finance with the Portfolio Holder John Whitehead and the 151 Officer, Katherine Steele, of many years who retires at the end of April this year. Melissa Evans has been appointed her successor.

The Annual budget was approved at full council on Monday as was a pay review of officers' pay which had not been done for 11 years.

Last month saw the Launch of warm Homes Suffolk. This offers free advice on how to keep homes warm, reduce energy usage and signpost eligible residents to a range of home upgrades, including cavity, loft and external insulation, installation of solar photovoltaic systems and switching central heating to a more efficient low carbon heat pumps. More information on MSDC and SCC websites.

Details of the Suffolk Walking festival between 14th and 29th May can be found at <https://suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk>

When the new financial year starts I hope to have a new amount of locality budget and will advise as soon as that becomes available. With the Jubilee celebrations over the four day bank holiday weekend 2nd June to 5th June <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/PlatinumJubileeEvent> gives more information and I am sure I will have some monies available. It is noted SCC are not charging for road closures relating to this issue.

There are ongoing issues with Bin collections due to covid issues and breakdowns so please leave bins out and they will be collected.

Cllr Mrs Kathie Guthrie

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