

District Councillors report to 6 December 2019

Whilst many planning applications seem to cause great discussions in communities and in the press and many not favourable, I am pleased to advise that the plans for the Needham Lake visitor Centre continues at a pace. With a tight schedule the completion is expected by late summer or early autumn. Visitor numbers are in excess of 300,000 annually and is recognised as being one of East Anglia's free attractions.

Changes at the Senior level management at Mid Suffolk see Jonathan Stephenson, Strategic Director has resigned to take up the appointment of Chief Executive of Brentford Council. His energy and direction will be missed.

On that theme, it is pleasing to announce Innovation Labs at Stowmarket have opened at Wharfside House in Stowmarket in the former Bistro Restaurant offering 20 Desks for people to rent and will offer a new approach to supporting and developing four key areas:-

Innovation, Entrepreneurship, business growth; An Artificial Intelligence centre of Excellence.

Innovation Labs Stowmarket is seen as a front runner to an Innovation Cluster on Gateway 14 (owned by MSDC). It is hoped to bring the Innovation/Digital age to Mid Suffolk and raise the aspirations and high value jobs to the District the same time of raising the profile of Mid Suffolk as the place to be.

It is really encouraging that high quality jobs will be available to the next generation here in Mid Suffolk and not far from our rural villages.

Obviously since the announcement of the General Election the moratorium period has made a difference to activities and meetings in Mid Suffolk and as such the Locality Awards have been suspended. However the time frame has now been extended to January 31st 2020 so do please keep the applications coming in. Public meetings, apart from Planning and Licensing, have been suspended.

However, District Councillors can still be contacted for any concerns you may have relating to District Matters

Normal Service will resume as soon as possible.

Councillor Mrs Kathie Guthre

Ward Member for Debenham