

District Councillors report to 8 December 2020

The planning application at low Road was discussed last week and despite there being a Neighbourhood plan which I spoke in support of i.e no exit on to low road the committee felt the likelihood of the alternative way in and out would be several years coming forward and again despite the Inspector agreeing with the community and the Parish Council and myself that it was ill advised because Highways said it could accommodate the number of houses members felt it appropriate to pass the application 6 votes to 2.

The Joint Local Plan with Babergh District Council is out for its final consultation and is focused on the legality or if something is missin, not the same comments people may have made before. This paves the way for sustainable growth and employment opportunities. Any comments will be sent to the Inspector for the Reg 19 review in the spring. The consultation runs to 24<sup>th</sup> December.

Similarly the CIL review is also out for consultation and that too runs to 24<sup>th</sup> December. All details are on the Mid Suffolk Website

Cllr Matthew Hicks continues to update us with regard to the Covid situation and all details on both websites.

New Covid grants have been launched under a second wave of support packages and again all details on the Website.

Mid Suffolk Held their 2020 innovation awards and were held virtually and there were many worthy winners and you have guessed all details on the website.

CIFCO has acquired further properties. The income generated and returns allow MSDC to meet loan repayments and the extra income is ploughed back into Council Services. The Current Covid Situation has significantly affected other income streams and so this income is welcomed. It is noted that the Government is recommending no further investments of this sort.

In amongst all these difficulties it is pleasing to note that Mid Suffolk has approved the first Biodiversity Action Plan to protect and strengthen biodiversity – supporting Councils’ carbon neutral aims. Again, please look at the website to see what is being proposed and how we can all help even in a small way.

Finally all these CIL payments need to be spent on something and £431,740 has been allocated to the new Emergency Hub in Stowmarket which will house the police and fire station.

Ringshall Village hall has £16651 to provide a new sewerage system and

Thornham Walks have had £27,000 in March and a top up of £3355 to complete works on a new car parking area.

Cllr Mrs Kathie Guthrie