

District councillors report to 12 June 2020

Apologies if there are some duplications of information but as you can imagine we are being hit with emails on a daily basis and much is sent through to Parish Councils from both MSDC and SCC.

The Covid, details and releases are issued by SCC and are published daily.

- There have been numerous initiatives and there is on offer a new Discretionary grant for businesses in shared offices and other flexible workplaces.
- Businesses Towns areas of open spaces are being offered extra help in how to make them safer with support coming from Suffolk resilience Forum – full details have been emailed to the Parish Council
- Small businesses can apply for a new innovation and growth fund but they will need to check if they are eligible.

With the above funding streams and help etc please look on the Mid Suffolk District Website for all the relevant information.

Food waste contributes to 50,000 tons of good quality food being wasted each year and an average household will waste £810 worth of good food. With that in mind Suffolk Waste Partnership in conjunction with the East of England Co-op there is a competition running on a Food Savvy website for primary school children to draw their favourite 'delicious' food. Entries close 20th June 2020 so get drawing! Winners announced 20th July.

The tree for life has once again been promoted this year. It is for a new baby born between 1st January and 31st December 2020 and also includes those who have sadly passed away in that period. Trees to be planted in appropriately agreed places and have also included Needham Market Lake, Gallows Wood Haughley and Sroughton Millenium green where no local space available. Just before the lockdown 400 trees had been allocated.

Planning matters and decisions are ongoing and as you know I hosted the first virtual planning meeting but the second one was cancelled for some reason and I am still trying to get to the bottom of that. That said decisions are still being made as are appeal decisions from the Planning Inspectorate which seem to get curiouser and curiouser with conflicting decisions on very similar applications even by the same Inspector! Unfortunately the Planning departments have no redress.

I have also hosted the first Live Licensing Committee meeting and, whilst that too was challenging, it was not as complicated as the planning meetings. However it is the way for the future for the time being.

Once again I would like to thank all the volunteers, shops and businesses who have been delivering medicines, fish and chips and food parcels and hope the dentists and hairdressers are able to open up soon as all this lockdown is turning me grey!

Finally please keep alert and stay safe

Councillor Mrs Kathie Guthrie

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