District Councillors Report to 15 March 2019

The Local District and Parish Elections have now been called for 2 May 2019 and so we are in the Pre-election moratorium until after the election.

Whilst not in Debenham my role includes the wider community of Mid Suffolk and I can report the Planning Application to redevelop the old Mid Suffolk District Council Offices was approved at committee a few weeks ago and was quite innovative with mixed tenures and business opportunities. The Listed buildings were enhanced with the architect’s designs.

No doubt you will have read about the reserved Matters for the Snoasis project was given approval this week. The design whilst, very ambitious and covering 304 acres, is futuristic and exciting. The Secretary of State had already given permission and last weeks meeting covered reserved matters only as the principle of development and highways had previously been determined.

Understandably local concerns were mainly due to the disruption and the extra traffic. It was disappointing that Anglian Railways would no longer entertain a station at Claydon because of their desire to improve fast trains to London, and the funding of over £13m to achieve this was not going to be met, there are improvements to Stowmarket Station and shuttle buses will be available. (Shuttle busses would always have been needed from any station to the site and it is deemed the distance from Stowmarket would not be detrimental and it was kept out of Ipswich to reduce impacts on traffic which is already suffering at certain times).

It is proposed that there will be an international ski slope (the highest in the world possibly but certainly the UK) with an ice and speed and skating rink, bobsleigh run, sports centre and Academy, hotels, chalets and swimming pool to mention but a few benefits.

The Project had the support of our Bobsleigh silver and bronze medal winner, Lenny Paul born in Ipswich spoke in support of the project and the international support it would receive

Assurances were given for funding for this venture as we all know it fell apart many years ago due to a failed funding situation.

What an opportunity for Mid Suffolk and its residents and tourism.

I will be attending a full Council Meeting at Endeavour House on Monday evening and if it finishes in time I do hope to be able to attend the Parish Council meeting but apologise in advance if I am unable to make it.

Councillor Mrs Kathie Guthrie