District Councillors End of Year Report to May 2018

Well another busy year one way or another.

I will start with the Council, giving a snapshot of the years’ events.

You no doubt are all aware in September the Mid Suffolk District Council Offices and Staff moved from Needham Market to Ipswich, Endeavour House, along with the Babergh Colleagues, with whom we share not only a Chief executive but senior management and employees. It is estimated to save £5.8million over the next decade thus enabling more funds to reinvest in Council Services. It also enabled staff to work from one site and also in a more ‘agile way’. It is fair to say the computer system has had its glitches particularly with the on line Planning system but hopefully that is being ironed out.

There are two ‘touchdown points’ one in Stowmarket and one in Sudbury both of which can be easily accessed.

You will also be aware that any proposed debate on a Merger between the two District Councils have been put on hold. One of the reasons being Mid Suffolk District Councillors would rather get on with managing and serving the community rather than focusing on a further distraction away from day to day business.

Although Highways and Potholes are a Suffolk County Council responsibility, Mid Suffolk supported the successful bid for funding to improve the A140 junction at Brome. The funding of £3.75million from the Department for Transport will enable businesses to expand and create a safer area for Housing.

Mid Suffolk has delivered 80 affordable houses across the district with 11 new Shared homes at Great Blakenham. There are further projects moving forward with the purchase of Paddock House in Eye and two former middle schools in Stowmarket and Needham Market. In addition a redevelopment programme on the Needham Market Offices will support much needed housing growth. MSDC and BB jointly were awarded over £400,000 to invest in Community led Housing schemes. The building control section has secured the contract for 175 houses at Stowupland. This is a business stream which is of most importance to raise funds.

MSDC priorities are Housing Delivery, Business growth and Increased Productivity, building on our Asset Portfolio to raise income for MSDC, Improving Efficiency and our Environment.

I have continued to work diligently for individuals and the community. I work closely with the Parish Council and their Neighbourhood Plan team who are vital for the community to help it grow as it chooses. A Neighbourhood Plan, when adopted and embedded in the MSDC Local Plan will be an integral part in planning as we move to the future.

Planning is a big area which takes up much of my time. I will continue to work for the community and ensure their voice is heard.

Although this is a report for last year I do not wish to miss an opportunity to raise the roof for Debenham which is such a vibrant and active village.

The OVO women’s cycle tour is coming to Debenham on Wednesday 13th June 2018. The lead cars hope to arrive in the High Street at approximately 12.12 and all cycles should have finished by 12.29. The timing for Winston will be 12.19 to 12.34 so get your deck chairs and picnics out to watch the event! It was really exciting the last time a tour came through.

My £6000 locality budget last year was spent on the following worthy causes:-

Debenham Library Foundation Storage shed and Chair £350

Debenham Parochial Church Council Refurb Dove Cottage Kitchen £1000

Debenham Sports and Leisure Bouncy Castle £500

Debenham Library Foundation New Signage £405

Debenham Community First Responders Contribution Defibrillators £600

Debenham Fun and Festivities Society Christmas Shopping festival £250

Debenham Bowls Club Purchase of bowls gatherers £300

Winston Parochial Church Council Structural survey and repair

Old School Room £550

Debenham PC Woodland Group Hoppit W&W Bridge £1500

Winston Parish Council New Notice Board £455

Stradbroke & Laxfield Support Elderly Lady who

cares for many elderly £90

I do hope many of you will benefit from these enterprises.

I look forward to serving you once again this year and hope Debenham has another great year.

Cllr Mrs Kathie Guthrie

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