

**DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL – Summary of the Parish Council Meeting held
Monday 18 January 2016**

County Councillor (Matthew Hicks): Consultation to shape the future of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service – public meetings announced for 2016

In last month's report, details were given on the public consultation to shape the future of Suffolk's Fire and Rescue Service. As part of this consultation looking at the future provision for Suffolk's fire service, a timetable of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) hosted public meetings has been set for early 2016 to enable people to hear directly about what is being proposed, and have their say, as well as completing the online questionnaire. SFRS officers are encouraging people to attend these meetings across the county so that their views can be taken into account before the proposals are finalised and any decisions are made.

These public meetings are as follows:

14 Jan 2016 – Ipswich – Endeavour House, 6.30pm-8.30pm

28 Jan 2016 – Wrentham – Village Hall, 6.30pm-8.30pm

01 Feb 2016 – Lowestoft – Riverside Centre, 6.30pm-8.30pm

03 Feb 2016 – Sudbury – Town Hall, 6.30pm-8.30pm

If anyone you know would like to attend, please encourage them to email fireservicedesign@suffolk.gov.uk confirming which meeting date and venue they would like to attend. This will help the team to ensure that there are sufficient facilities available for each meeting. Full details of the proposals and consultation are available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/fireredesign. The consultation closes on 22 February 2016.

District Councillor (Kathie Guthrie): MSDC have secured £20,000 for 10 council tenants who wish to purchase PRIVATE property and can demonstrate they have further funds to secure a mortgage and can pay ongoing commitments. They also have to have had a clear rent payment period. So far one applicant has been successful.

MSDC budgeted for a 30% reduction in income from the government but now the figures are out the reduction is a massive 46%. I, along with all other members, have been attending finance updates and reviews as to how the budget is moving forward for MSDC and once we have our Council meeting I will be able to comment further but clearly there will have to be changes along with expectations.

Planning: Applications 4374/15 and 4375/15 The Angel Inn, 5 High Street, for partial change of use, erection of first floor extension to re-instate former two storey rear wing and former separate dwelling, internal alterations including the relocation of toilet facilities, to retain the public house as a community facility (revised scheme to that submitted under ref. 2494/14 and 2475/14) were considered by Council and a resolution was made to recommend their refusal.

The main points raised by members, and which will form part of the comments submitted to MSDC are: A considerable number of issues raised previously remain the same; Further information regarding the structural works to the building's foundation are needed; There is still no clear Statement of Methodology (as stated by Historic England) as to how the proposed demolition and building works will be done and how they may affect neighbouring properties; The proposals are very likely to affect parking and traffic flow on the High Street; Since the erection of the partition wall, which greatly affected the venue, the facility stopped being a family friendly typical village pub and the approval of the current application would make the prospect of bringing The Angel Inn back to its former glory impossible. With focus being placed on key service centers not just being a commercial hub but also attractive to tourism, it was felt that the loss of yet another important amenity and Asset of Community Value was not an option that could even be considered.

Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations: Arrangements are well under way for what will hopefully be a wonderful family fun day in Debenham on June 12th 2016. The trestle tables and additional conveniences have been booked and the road closure application will be submitted this week. If you would like to join the working group to help with preparations or on the day itself, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Woodland and Lakes: Members of the public are strongly advised to take extra care when walking near the Lakes, as the ground maybe slippery due to recent rain fall and very low temperatures. The surface of the lake is also frozen and although it may take the weight of a small bird, it certainly will not take the weight of any wannabe "Dancing on Ice" stars. Please let your children know how dangerous it is.

Allotments: Parishioners are advised that there are still a limited number of allotment plots available to let. Having an allotment plot is much more affordable that you may think and the annual rents currently range from £15 to £30, with water provided by the Council. Please contact the Clerk for further information.

Mrs Dina Bedwell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Debenham Parish Council
01473 787861 or debenham.pc@btinternet.com

Date of next Meeting: February 15th 2016