

District councillors Report to 14th January 2018

May I first of all express my sadness at learning of the death of Edward Bowman who was a serving Parish Councillor. My condolences to family and friends.

The Move of the Council Offices and Officers has now taken place and everyone is decamped to Endeavour House and things are beginning to settle down. The Lead Area Planning Manager is Gemma Walker and I hope to be giving her a whistle stop tour of Winston, Debenham and Aspall over the next few weeks.

I am sure you are aware of the recent developments at Babergh District Council with regard to potentially exploring any merger. MSDC council continues to try to find ways of cutting costs whilst continuing with business and looking for business streams to support income. For example the Commercial Waste Service continues to grow and at the end of quarter 2 in this financial year they attracted 36 new customers equivalent to an additional £55,000 annualised income. Street and car parking lights are being replaced by LED's in Mid Suffolk which will reduce the annual running costs by £3300 (a 72% saving) I will be attending a presentation on Wednesday regarding next year's Budget.

The Licensing team at MSDC (of which I am chair) have supported the Government initiative of reducing the stakes for fixed odds betting terminals (available at high street bookmakers) currently users can spend £100 every twenty seconds and have been linked to problem gambling and money laundering. Whilst this does not seem to be a prevalent problem in either MSDC or BBDC there is still a social responsibility and Licensing Committee interest.

Progress has been made for the options of the Needham Market Office site and the final recommendation will be presented to Council in February. A Planning application will be submitted following any Cabinet approval.

I am sure many of you are aware there are several planning applications currently being assessed in the Debenham area and at this moment I do not have details of any committee meetings to which they may be presented.

I would like to congratulate the Parish Council and their focus group on achieving draft 35 of the Neighbourhood Plan. Once embedded and adopted in the Local Plan for MSDC it will have a substantial impact on planning matters. A word of caution, until that happens, as in all villages, developers can, and do, put in applications which seem at odds to the proposals and wishes of the communities. These applications still have to be carefully considered by Planning Officers

Debenham's latest planning application is that of Taylor Wimpey reference DC/17/06293.

As is the case on such large planning applications the ward member is invited to a pre planning meeting attended by the applicants and Officers of the Council, so that he or she can be aware of what might be put forward. In this instance it was myself and I first became aware of the potential proposals in early summer and suggested an approach be made to the Debenham Parish Council so they too would be aware of such an application. I also attended another meeting in November to hear the final proposals – again with the Officers of MSDC present. I did not express any view.

As this matter will be heard before committee it is now my role to listen to the voices of the community and take those comments forward. I do this in many ways. I have already received emails and letters and members of the community have spoken to me in the street. I will listen to

the views of the Parish Council and allude to the NHP which underpins much of what I expect I will hear. In the meantime I would suggest any comments should be made via the planning portal

<http://www.midusuffolk.gov.uk/planning/development-management/application-search-andcomment/search-for-applications/> and use the refence number DC/17/06293

If there are similar comments to be made I would NOT recommend a 'round robin letter approach' and even if comments cover the same ground, separately worded letters/emails carry more weight

Kathie Guthrie

District Councillor

Debenham Ward

01728 861752