

District Councillors report to 16 October 2019

As ever planning matters have kept me extremely busy and whilst I have a responsibility to the whole of Mid Suffolk being a Planning Chairman exacerbates that position, I have been dealing with several planning applications in Debenham.

There is another application for a proposed 32 houses in Kenton on the current Anchor Storage lorry site.

You will no doubt be aware that the planning application for the proposed 8 dwellings at the back of Cherry Tree Lane has been refused. A further application has now been received for 7 properties

Mid Suffolk District Council have voted to support 2030 carbon neutral ambitions. A taskforce is being set up in partnership with Babergh District Council and other public sector partners to assist in this quest.

Whilst on the Subject of Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils working together it is to be noted there is no intention to pursue a merger and any further discussions will not take place till after 2023.

CIFCO Capital Ltd – this is a separate company wholly owned by Babergh and Mid Suffolk to generate income through property investments. It has caused controversy and was in fact debated in the EADT on 30th August. The current income enables the Councils to continue with the current services without which MSDC would have to increase taxes or cut services. It is one I watch and continue to question carefully.

Although a SCC matter It is worrying that the bus services 112/113/114 (Diss – Eye-Debenham/Mendlesham – Ipswich) are up for review (this always was the case as those contracts were due to expire within the next 12 months) However 87, 377 and 386 Services operated by Galloways are the ones currently under review following a reduction in funding. I am sure County Councillor Hicks can amplify but being a rural community I wanted to draw it to your attention.

I was also approached over the temporary traffic lights at the Aspell site and the Planning department made relevant enquiries and I have been informed that the lights will now remain green for Aspell Road constantly and only switch to red when vehicles are entering/exiting the site and the lights will be taken down for long periods of inactivity such as weekends and Bank Holidays. Etc. There will also be a red sign advising why the lights are in place.

I am pleased to announce that Philip Isbell who has been acting Chief Planner has now been given the post of Chief Planner. With his experience it is hoped he can look at Planning, enforcement and heritage all under one banner now and there is a push to improve the overall experience of our planning system. With a 5 year land supply and the Local Plan out for consultation it should give the District more control over where and what sort of housing we want. Please do make any relevant comments on the local plan which can be found on line on the MSDC website. We must not be complacent but it is interesting to note MSDC was on the side of common sense when the Appeal Inspector refused an appeal against a very large conglomerate who goes round the country procuring land for development to sell on. As I have said before 'If we want to urbanise our villages we will do it with our builders and expertise and local knowledge and not 'for profit organisations' to tell us what we want!' Rant over!

Free Swimming is on offer for under 17's during October half term (19-27 October) and Christmas Holidays (20th December – 5th January 2020) inclusive at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre Stowmarket and Stradbroke Swimming Pool and fitness centre.

Whilst this is Highways I am not sure if Cllr Hicks has this in his report so duplicate is better than none. There are some road disruptions for vegetation clearance and tree works on A1120 Boundary Corner and Pettaugh from Monday 4th November to Friday 8th November between 9.30 am 3.30 pm

I can put notices on the two notice boards and send an electronic copy to go on the Winston Website.

Please also note I do have a locality budget to be spent on our local communities and you have until the 31 December to claim some of it.

I am more than happy to meet with anyone who wishes to discuss any matters pertaining to Mid Suffolk District Council and help where I can.

Kathie Guthrie

District Councillor for

Debenham Ward.

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