

## District Councillors report for September 2022

A new joint fire station with the Ipswich police opens Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September Monday to Saturday 9 am to 5pm. It is located on Princes Street and will be open to the public. More details on the websites of the police and Suffolk fire and rescue service.

Whilst on the subject of police, there is a face to face recruitment Specials event on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September at Police HQ Martlesham. For more information visit 'special Constabulary Suffolk Constabulary'

### CIL – community infrastructure Levy

A total of £420,00 has been put back into the community in the latest round of bids. The biggest and most important one for MSDC is £100,00 towards a feasibility study into possible improvements at Thurston's railway station. Whilst that might not seem relevant to Bedingfield Parishioners they need to know the money is being spent on the communities and each community can bid for this money for appropriate projects which go before a panel for decision.

Tree coverage in Babergh and Mid Suffolk is set to increase to help tackle biodiversity loss and climate change – thanks to our pioneering council – commissioned survey. As part of the Biodiversity Action Plan, Mid Suffolk have been working with specialists to identify and map existing tree coverage and habitat networks across our districts. This is to identify and protect places where biodiversity is thriving and locate areas with low coverage or gaps where it could be strengthened. Carried out by Treeconomics it has found just over 10% of Babergh is covered by trees. Mid Suffolk's coverage sits at just over 8% ranging from 6% in the Stow Thorney ward to 12.8% in the Claydon and Barham ward. Whilst on the subject of trees there is a continuation of a Tree for life scheme for new parents. Please read more information on the MSDC website.

In the Parish briefings for last month information on help re the cost of living crisis, digital skills training for businesses, a group buying scheme for Solar Panels, safe battery disposal, chewing gum removal from our pavements and much more. Do please look on the website where all the links give much more information. You can register for free with the group-buying scheme for Solar Panels with no obligation to go ahead with an installation. This scheme helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for quality installations from pre-approved installers.

A public Exhibition will take place in Stowmarket at the John Peel Centre from Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September showcasing projects for the town. It includes new sport, leisure, education, wellbeing and leisure hub on land surrounding Stowmarket High School, an update on Gateway 14 and plans for a new Skills and innovation centre at the site. There will also be an opportunity to hear developments at the John Peel Centre and old Fox Yard as well as from organisations including the Virtual High Street and Mid Suffolk Disability forum.

Mid Suffolk continues to collect fly tipping with over 136 fly tips collected by the team.

Don't forget the Annual Canvass is well underway. Households will get either an email asking them to confirm the information we have is correct or make any changes necessary or they may get a letter asking who should be on the electoral register.

UK power networks are updating their data base for those people who may need extra support when power cuts might cause real problems. You must make sure you are signed up for the Priority Services Register (PSR) Look at website to see if you qualify.

Cllr Mrs Kathie Guthrie (Kathie.Guthrie@midsuffolk.gov.uk)