

District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward – March 2024
Serving Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Aspall, Bedingfield, Debenham, Kenton & Winston
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<p>Out & About:</p>	<p>For my report for March I wanted to set a Theme for Spring of ‘Getting Involved’ with your parish. We all love where we live and are thankful for our surroundings and yet are we fully exploring them and getting back out there since co-vid? I visited Debenham Primary School in February and discovered that one of their themes for the School will be Community, to help integrate the children and open their eyes to what lies outside of their home and school. With this same thought I would ask everyone reading this, are you getting out enough? Are you enjoying life and restoring your sense of feeling connected to these lovely parishes that we reside in?</p> <p>In my meetings around the parish it was great to explore and find out more about the history of Hoppit Wood with one of the volunteer trustees. After the flood I found out about the Community Response Team we have, and I know about many many initiatives from Meet Up Mondays to the excellent sports and clubs we have. We are so lucky to have such a busy and welcoming home and most of this is done by volunteers and enthusiasts who want to make our place, a better place to live. Joining in with this helps us to be better, to do more and support others. So please, when you have a free couple of hours in the evening or day maybe think about trying something new. It’s out there and you will be very welcome. I know my Parish Councils and Parish Meetings would very much like to see new faces, maybe to join a working group or to be a councillor. We have clubs needing more volunteers to help run them and trusts who are in need of new blood to help pave the way for the future.</p> <p>In January we saw the Flood Forum take place. I found it brilliant that so many people came. I understand the Debenham Parish Council are already working with the Environment Agency on moving things forward. Over 350 people attended the forums held. I hope in that time you also got to see a few faces you had not seen for a while and maybe reconnected with old friends and also met new faces passionate about things like you. Let’s not leave it till another flood to reach out and get involved. If your unsure I can point you in the direction of the places that need help or just point out some excellent clubs and groups to be involved in. Let’s do.</p>
<p>Cabinet/Council News</p>	<p><u>Mid Suffolk in March</u></p> <p>The Cosy Homes Insulation Grant Scheme is still running so please do apply. The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership is also running a conference on retrofit solutions - Making Older Suffolk Homes more energy efficient - A Free event on 6th March at The Hold in Ipswich. Our Heritage Team are also working on a planning and retrofit leaflet and talk once they have completed looking at their recent consultation on Local Listed Building Consent Orders.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk District Cabinet are meeting on 4th March and we have a Full Council meeting on 20th March the agendas can be found online around a week before.</p> <p>I can also always ask a question on a residents behalf. Anyone is welcome to attend, and they are also live on ‘You Tube’ for those who want to attend virtually. A link to the agenda and papers can be found on our website or by searching ‘Mid Suffolk Cabinet (or council) Meeting March 2024’.</p> <p>A Mid Suffolk wide call to all Towns and Parishes to advise of existing services and facilities has been made this week and I would ask that all Parishes respond before the closing date of 28th March as this will inform the Joint Local Plan Pt2.</p>