# District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward – Oct 2023 Serving Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Aspall, Bedingfield, Debenham, Kenton & Winston Cllr Teresa Davis teresa.davis@midsuffolk.gov.uk

#### **Out & About**

I wanted to introduce you to <u>Debenham Green Team</u>. They are a non-policitial community group who formed to see if they can help in making Debenham more environmentally friendly. Starting with litter picking and recycling, once a month they stand outside the Red Lion to take in difficult to recycle items. The team also arrange for guest speakers on a number of different environment issues. Currently water testing in the River Deben has begun and a group of volunteers are going to be regularly collecting samples to be tested – more volunteers are welcome. If anyone wants to get more involved or is just interested in taking part in one off events then I would recommend sending them an email or stopping to chat with them on the first Saturday of the month outside the Red Lion in Debenham. <u>Debenhamgreenteam@gmail.com</u>

## Linking up our Ward and getting people walking & cycling

Ashfield-Cum-Thorpe has made the first moves to helping their residents connect, by producing a map of where existing footpaths and bridleways could be improved and interlinked, to link up with Debenham. This has been passed to our sustainable transport officer to be placed on our Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan or LCWIP. If any other parish would like to put forward similar paths or maybe put forward safer routes to our high School or Primary School I would love to hear from you.

#### Debenham Businesses

We have a variety of talent and business in our Debenham ward, from agricultural and food to financial and crafts. I would like to hear from any businesses in the ward who are looking for support, ideas or just to meet other like minded people. A variety of information is available from Mid Suffolk such as grants, innovation and carbon reduction.

Businesses in Mid Suffolk can now also benefit from a new round of funding, Grants are available between £5,000 - £10,000 per application and will fund a maximum of 50% of the total project costs up to the maximum value of £10,000. Eligible projects include net-zero developments, agriculture and farm diversification and innovation, along with visitor economy business expansion. Just search Grants and Loans » Babergh Mid Suffolk

#### **Cabinet News**

#### **EV Charging Points & Buses**

Two items I will be introducing to Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> October will be Electric Charging points infrastructure and Buses.

If you have used a charging point you might have come across some of the teething problems this new technology brings and we are aiming to prevent this as more charge points are provided.

I am sure many have been wondering about Buses and I am pleased to say we are in a position to move forward on this project working with Suffolk County Council (who is in charge of bus transport) as well as existing transport providers to improve the current provision of buses we have, so please watch this space for more news.

## **Locality Award**

My locality award is open and still has funds. Any group or organisation can apply for amounts of £250 or more. Please contact me for an application form.