

**District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward – Sept 2023**  
**Serving Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Aspell, Bedingfield, Debenham, Kenton & Winston**  
**Cllr Teresa Davis** [teresa.davis@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:teresa.davis@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

<p><b>Out &amp; About</b></p>	<p>This month I wanted to place a spotlight on getting ready for winter, help and community. Residents have expressed concern about insulating their homes when living in a grade II and Grade II* building and the lack of clear guidance available. A good source of information is Historic England <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/retrofit-and-energy-efficiency-in-historic-buildings/insulating-walls-in-historic-buildings/">https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/retrofit-and-energy-efficiency-in-historic-buildings/insulating-walls-in-historic-buildings/</a> I am also looking to arrange a visit from our Heritage Team to give a practical talk and answer any questions you might have in late autumn - dates and venues to be confirmed. Please let me know if you are interested.</p> <p>We also have our very own insulation team here in Debenham working on producing a general advice pack, along with the ability to use the Thermal Imaging Camera from the <b>Debenham Green Team</b> - some of you may have received a recent insulation survey. <b>Warm Homes Suffolk</b> is also continuing and for households who's income is £31,000 or less and live in a home with an EPC rating of D or worse and who do not have gas central heating, weather you own the property, rent it or are the landlord help is available.</p> <p>Telephone <b>03456 037 686</b> or visit <a href="http://www.warmhomessuffolk.org.uk">www.warmhomessuffolk.org.uk</a></p> <p>We also have our own <b>Meet up Mondays</b> that take place at Dove Cottage, open to everyone, remember just because you might be in Kenton or Aspell etc doesn't mean you can't visit. So if you are in the mood for a chat or to hear what's happening in the village(s) pop along to taste what I would call 'tasty cake', maybe play some games or be introduced to some crafting. You just can't predict what will be going on or who will pop in. I would be very interested to hear from any other community groups and come for a visit.</p>
<p><b>Land in the Ward – FREE TREE?</b></p>	<p>We have quite a lot of open space in and around the ward and our Biodiversity Officer at Mid Suffolk is continuing the scheme to plant <b>FREE</b> tree's, hedgerows and plants. Application forms can be found here <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/planting-schemes/trees-hedgerows-and-wildflowers-scheme/">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/planting-schemes/trees-hedgerows-and-wildflowers-scheme/</a> Please ask me for more details if you want to take charge of how an area near you can be designed. We are looking to also plant with residents uses in mind Eg; Ideas have been given for a <b>community orchard</b> near the pond off Low Road, having a tree and bench within a beautiful small biodiverse <b>communal herb garden</b> space such as Saxfield Rd or Gardeners Rd/Henry Street. If we have the volunteers we can make the changes and make our ward beautiful, useable and help the environment at the same time.</p> <p>We also have a local <b>Tree Nursery</b> building off Low Rd and donations are accepted. I have had two tree's self seed and will be donating them to the nursery.</p> <p>Our Biodiversity Officer can also apply to a new fund for micro woods or community orchards, so please contact me or Richard Parmee if you are interested in this for your parish <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-coronation-living-heritage-fund">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-coronation-living-heritage-fund</a></p>
<p><b>Locality Award</b></p>	<p>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.</p>