

District Councillors report to 31 August 2019

Firstly my apologies but I am unable to attend your meeting.

I did send a report for July to all Parish Councils on 11th July which I trust can be made available to the communities

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.

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. We await further actions on that site.

Planning applications in the wider community will have impacts in Bedingfield and possibly Kenton with regard to lorry movements and the Parish Councils need to keep an eye on those and make appropriate comments as necessary. I will not comment as the matter may come before me as Chairman of the Planning Committee Development control B.

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 the County Councillor 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!

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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