

District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward – April 2024
Serving Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Aspall, Bedingfield, Debenham, Kenton & Winston
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<p>Out & About in the Ward:</p>	<p>By the time you are reading this everyone would have received their new council tax bill. You will see that it has gone up. In with this bill I hope you would have read about what this money does for each of the public bodies that receive it.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council will be given 74% of what is collected, our Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner will be given 13%. Mid Suffolk will retain just 9% - which is about £3.37 a week, with approximately the remaining 4% going out to your Town or Parish.</p> <p>You may have seen from the news that we have national problems with finding money for peoples needs. However here at Mid Suffolk we are looking at ways to help those in the most need and although we would need agreement from the others mentioned to change any council tax thresholds, we are looking at ways to help our Mid Suffolk residents in light of the cost of living pressures. We are striving to make our council owned homes decent energy efficient and mould free places to live and this has led to increases in rent this year. Something I did not know is that our council housing finance has to be legally separated from our general spending, so no council tax goes into improving council owned homes, only rent collected from the council homes can be used. This makes for some interesting financial reading if anyone is interested to know more. It is good news that we were recently part successful in our joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk application to National Government and given £1.6million towards upgrading our council homes to be energy efficient.</p> <p>As your elected representative for everyone in the Debenham Ward, especially whilst we live through these challenging times I will endeavour to live by the priorities set out by our Green led Council. They encompass four key areas: housing and infrastructure, district resilience, community wellbeing; and environmental sustainability. So whilst some may feel I stray from a rigid path of what I should be doing, please know that whatever problem or situation you find yourself in, you can come to me and I will ensure you get to those you need to. It's one of the reasons why I organised the Flood Forum.</p>
<p>Cabinet/Council News</p>	<p><u>Mid Suffolk in April</u></p> <p>There is always lots going on and our teams do not stop. Your Parish Council / Meeting should receive a regular report from Mid Suffolk for all what is going on alongside my own monthly report. For those who like to read the paper, my monthly report appears in the Debenham Magazine. News is on our own website and you can opt to have updates sent. I am looking to have a regular 'open surgery' for those who like to speak in person. Current highlights are:</p> <p>Rural Transport Grants have been launched for organisations to apply. Six areas with up to £100,000 of grant is available and we are hoping this is a spring board for more regular connecting journeys covering night time travel as well and helps support our county buses get people to where they want to go.</p> <p>Skills and Innovation Centre for Stowmarket, based at Gateway 14 will be built with the aim of improving and linking much needed skills for our workforce and businesses.</p> <p>Electric Bike Hire Scheme launched in Needham Lakes, bookable online.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk District Cabinet are meeting on 9th April. Our full council meeting has been cancelled on advice from our Monitoring Officer due to upcoming elections at the beginning of May. More information can be found on our website or by searching 'Mid Suffolk Cabinet (or Council) Meetings 2024'.</p>

