

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

<p><b>Getting acquainted and updated</b></p>	<p>This month I wanted to place a spotlight on our Debenham Shed.</p> <p>DEBENHAM SHED: An excellent resource with enthusiastic, patient and welcoming people. It was a joy to visit them and see how much of a difference they are making and could make to others.</p> <p><a href="http://www.debenhamshed.org.uk">Debenham Shed – Debenham Shed is a vibrant hub for members to meet, converse, create, invent, make and repair objects.</a> (www.debenhamshed.org.uk)</p> <p>If you think of the TV’s repair shop, then you are thinking along the right lines, but on a more chatty, informal ‘get stuck in’ space for you to go. There are tools galore, space to work and expertise to help you from Woodwork to Electronics to Vehicles to Crafts. If you have a passion to repair, reuse and upcycle rather than replace then you need to visit. They are open on a Monday morning from 9am and Friday afternoon from 2pm and can be found at 2 Fields on Low Road.</p>
<p><b>Local Planning &amp; Enforcement</b></p>	<p>Residents have been in contact with me in respect of some planning applications and issues of enforcement. I am here for you to use as a point of contact into the planning team with the aim of obtaining answers to your questions. The answers might not always be ones you hope to gain, however I will always do my best to ensure your arguments are listened to, bearing in mind the wider community implications that planning might involve, and the views held by the parish/district/county/nationally.</p> <p>Enforcement cases cannot be discussed with anyone other than the person that the enforcement relates to. If you have a suspicion that development is taking place without planning consent then you can report it here <a href="#">Report it » Babergh Mid Suffolk</a></p> <p>As with many laws and good practice (people choosing to speed is a good example) the reality of what people should do and what does happen is very different. When it comes to being made aware of planning breaches it is important to have ‘on-the-ground’ information being reported. I am aware of two enforcement cases within and just outside of our ward and our officers are doing all they can to ensure cases are brought to a conclusion.</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>
<p><b>MSDC Council Meeting</b></p>	<p>At July’s Council meeting, held in Elmswell, Leader Andy Mellen spoke about our plans for the short term, including pride of place, making homes more energy efficient, working to improve rural transport and a more active plan for Stowmarket. Further details will be provided on these and other projects soon.</p> <p>Emissions, Elections &amp; Pylons were also items of discussion at the meeting and you can watch it on You Tube. <a href="#">Mid Suffolk District Council Meeting - 19/07/2023 - YouTube</a></p> <p>National Grid launched its latest non-statutory public consultation on plans for a new high-voltage power line across East Anglia, including Mid Suffolk and Babergh. At the Council meeting it was agreed to lobby the relevant Government minister to ask National Grid to re-consider their current approach.</p>
<p><b>Nationally</b></p>	<p>Solar Farms: Cllr Mellen also spoke at the National Local Government Association conference, suggesting that the Government should provide a clear national framework for the development of solar farms as there needs to be a balance between delivering renewable energy, food production and protecting our valuable landscape.</p>