

District Councillors Report to December 12 2022

First of all I am pleased to attend your meeting. Although Covid seems to have abated it still has impact and for personal reasons I cannot catch it so hope you don't mind if I leave early.

I know many of you have supported Debenham and the Ukraine crisis. It is indeed a desperate situation. How can someone just blow people to smithereens and destroy housing and infrastructure I don't know.

At every opportunity throughout the year I have been banging on to enforcement about the state of the 'gun Range'. In Kenton. In my opinion it should never have been allowed but it was not on my watch. I am sorry for the owner who may be short of money but with Sport England having invested in this I am surprised they have not pursued the lack of action or the way in this is being built – too close to the road that any landscaping is nigh on impossible. Living on site is not an option either and I have great sympathy with the residents immediately adjacent to the site. I will read the latest email I have from the Enforcement Officer dated 6th December 2022

I am also disappointed to read in the EADT that the Housing Revenue seems to have a shortfall of £770,00 . What alarms me most is that I had to read it via the EADT. Communication in Mid Suffolk is not the greatest. We have sufficient reserves to cover this. Poor accounting is not good enough, and this is for the Housing Revenue. Even so we were able to keep the community tax the same as the previous year with prudent accounting in the main funds

On the subject of housing in all its forms! Mid Suffolk District Council own a large piece of land in Elmswell specifically for housing. The proposal is for an exemplar eco-friendly housing development. Any Application will have to go through the normal channels but as the land is owned by MSDC and any development will be made by the Council's own development company it went to Cabinet first for their view. Properties would be sustainable by design all with fabric first approach increased insulation, airtight and low energy designs – maximising solar power and reduced energy costs. This is indeed a proactive and futuristic approach and with MSDC being the applicant there can be no shortcuts or excuses. Lets see what the planning application looks like.

As a result of the sad death of Awaab Ishak after exposure to mould in his family's flat in Rochdale sympathies are expressed to his family. There was already a diagnostic review of Building Services earlier this year and MSDC had already trained more people to deliver damp and mould treatment and employed a Damp Specialist Surveyor and will be recruiting another one shortly. Action has been taken to try to resolve any mould and damp issues and further measures are planned.

I have circulated details regarding a Holiday activity fund which hopes to reach out to some children over the holiday period. The link will assist determining those who might eligible.

Debenham Dove Cottage has been allocated funding for a 'warm Space' I am sure they will welcome visitors from the whole of the ward.

I am still trying to ascertain how those who use oil are going to get their £200 but no one seems to know! Once again I have contacted the MP.

Gateway 14, although causing traffic disruption is well on its way and I am pleased to hear that landscaping is going in first. 15,500 new trees, 2,200 native hedgerow 30,000 square metres of native buffer planting and 62,000 square metres of wildflower meadow. Thank goodness it wasn't planted this spring with the very hot dry summer we have had.

It seems Michael Gove has signed a 'minded to' deal regarding devolution which should devolve powers to Suffolk bringing more than £480million investment over next 30 years. Suffolk County Councillor Matthew Hicks will explain more I am sure but the important thing is no 'power' will be taken from Districts to the County. Whether the districts get a look in on the money is yet to be seen and this is only a 'minded to' deal.

I do hope Parish Councillors attended some of the earlier very informative on line sessions regarding CIL for Parish Councillors and District Councillors to refresh. I know I attended the one on Thursday and it was very useful.

Thank you to all the shops and organisers who arranged the late night Shopping in Debenham. We tried the lovely hot drink at the pop up facility in Debenham albeit late in the evening.

Just to remind you the MSDC office/working staff will be closed on Monday 26th December Tuesday 27th December and Monday 2nd January but operational for the rest of the time.

This is just a snapshot of what has been going on at Mid Suffolk

I wish Everyone a good holiday and Happy New Year

Cllr Mrs Kathie Guthrie

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