

District Councillors report to January 2023.

First of all Happy new year to everyone.

I have been writing to Dr Poulter asking how the people who heat their homes by oil might get the support. I asked how would an electricity supplier know who has heating oil He has written back on 5/1/23 and I quote

“While final details are still to be announced, and I am not yet sure about the logistical specifics , I do understand that most households eligible for the AFP support in Great Britain will receive payment automatically via their electricity supplier in February, with no need to take any action. Those households who will need to apply for the AFT if they do not have a relationship with an electricity supplier, will be able to do so in February, through the same GO:V.UK Portal as the one that will be used to apply for support under the EBSS Alternative funding scheme”

It still doesn't answer my simple question, so yet again I have asked for clarification. The problem as I see it is some people might be up to date with electricity but need money to pay for oil. This is all very worrying as I see Police reports coming in as I type with heating oil having been stolen at Hollesley with thieves cutting the lock off the tank.

Many of you will have seen the discovery of the Cannabis factory at Kenton. I have been flagging the site up with our Enforcement team now for several years as it needs to either be completed or at least tidied up. Not a suitable location in my book but was passed by the planners

Gateway 14 has announced the contractor who has been appointed for the building which The Range have signed up for so things are moving a pace and in fact this was reported on the News today 10th January, so with more jobs on the horizon this is really exciting.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been hailed as ' pioneering Councils as they have completed a £2.8 million carbon cutting solar investment to cut the leisure centres reliance on the grid by nearly half. Each site includes battery storage so excess energy produced during sunnier periods can be saved for later, as well as eight electric vehicle charging pints, including two rapid chargers.

Planning continues to be challenging as is licensing and where my energies have been channelled of late.

Magic tables are being trialled in care homes in Suffolk for 6 months. They are interactive and projectors can be adjusted to transform a floor into an interactive scene such as a pond or lake giving the impression of splashing the water as they paddle their feet. This is really good that people with dementia can benefit.

The developer, Denbury Homes for the houses opposite the Primary School, 'Barleyfields' have sent a letter to those affected houses in quite a range nearby advising of a Community Liason Service. I have asked the Parish Council to put it on their website. A first in my book and very welcome.

I have now spend all my locality budget for this year and my endo of year report will reflect all allocations

Cllr Mrs Kathie Guthrie