

District Councillors report to 21 March 2022

Firstly apologies again for not attending. This time it is because MSDC has their full Council meeting tonight and our briefing starts at 4 .00 and the meeting usually runs off well into the evening.

Because of sickness now hitting every aspect of our lives I also have a planning briefing this afternoon and note one other member is now unable to attend. It seems to be a fact of life and I hope everyone is recovering from their own Covid issues. Planning of course still takes up a lot of my time as does licensing

As you know covid restrictions have been lifted but it is up to us all for our own personal responsibility. Covid hasn't gone away and people who test positive are urged to remain at home. I know from personal experience you don't really want to leave home! County takes the lead and Cllr Hicks gives regular updates.

As regards Mid Suffolk Employees a transition plan to get officers back into working at Endeavour house is being developed. I suspect it will be a hybrid type of working from home and office.

The Terrible war and invasion in Ukraine has left the world speechless and I am sure everyone has been doing as much as they can. There is a meeting in Debenham at the Leisure Centre on Wednesday 23 March at 7 pm to discuss how we can help locally. Cllr Hicks will be there to advise on what SCC is doing to co-ordinate things and I too will attend. However SCC website has updated information as it develops.

Some good news

I am sure you are all aware that there was no increase to the Council tax for 2022/2023

Last month saw the launch of Warm Homes Suffolk. This offers free advice on how to keep homes warm, reduce energy usage and signpost eligible residents to a range of home upgrades, including cavity loft and external insulation, installation of solar photovoltaic systems and switching central heating to a more efficient low carbon heat pumps. More information on MSDC and SCC websites

Details of the Suffolk Walking festival between 14<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May can be found at <https://suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk>

When the New financial year starts I hope to have a new amount of locality budget and will advise as soon as that becomes available. With the Jubilee celebrations over the four day bank holiday weekend - 2<sup>nd</sup> June to 5<sup>th</sup> June <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/PlatinumJubileeEvent>. Gives more information and I am sure I will have some monies available. It is noted that SCC are not charging for any road closures relating to this issue.

Any issues please do contact me if I can help

Cllr Mrs Kathie Guthrie

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