

District Councillors report to 17 November

Well Sadly we are once again on restricted activities but with the express outcome of saving lives and the NHS. We must all do our bit and in case many of you have not seen me, I am out and about when allowed but keeping very clear of everyone but working even harder it seems in Zoom meetings! Suffolk County Council and County Councillor Matthew Hicks send out regular updates.

A new Covid 19 support grant has been launched and some businesses may be eligible for a second wave of grant funding. Check on line at www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

I was asked at the last Parish Council Meeting for details of the parking operatives and when they visit Debenham. This is now managed by West Suffolk. There is a team of 6, to cover Mid Suffolk and presently go to 40 villages and try to get to Debenham once a week.

They visit primary and High School areas, but if no yellow lines they can only advise and ask people to move on. In September there were 29 visits to Debenham. All details are on the Mid Suffolk Website and if there is a persistent issue please go on there and notify the problem and they will try and come and deal with persistent issues. I hope this is helpful.

An Extraordinary Council Meeting was held on Wednesday last where the Joint Local Plan was debated at length. I, along with others, have spent many years debating and analysing the responses and working with the Officers to formulate the Plan. Whilst not perfect it gives us a breathing space so we do not have to start again and align a new plan with the proposed planning reforms in the recent white paper from the government. It was voted through with a few, understandably disappointed members, against the plan, but, sadly not realising the implications if we didn't put it to the Inspector for Reg 19. There is now a period of consultation 6 weeks and although open to all it is not like the last one. Any objections would go to the Inspector for their considerations but are not a rehearsal for objections from the first time round (18k in all!) but more specific to ensure legal compliance and soundness. It is hoped Reg 19 would be completed by Spring 2021 and have the plan in place later in the year. This would give us the opportunity to be working on Supplementary Planning Documents for example on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Green infrastructure to be added in material considerations once the plan is adopted. Mid Suffolk has just released its Biodiversity Action plan which can be viewed on the Website

CIL Charges have also been reviewed, increased and amended and again the 6 week consultation period runs from 12th November to 24th December for further comment.

Licensing has concluded a Statement of Policy statutory five yearly revision and it was sent out to 196 consultees with no response! I will present the paper at the next full Council on 26th November. Our legal team advised us there was no need to include any additions with regard to any infringements during the Covid lock down. In other words if there were breaches of a licence there are the normal rules to curtail their licence.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council promoted Online business awards and Stowmarket Based Halo Service Solutions were named the most Innovative company and was one of the 11 winners with West view IT Ltd won Innovation in Customers Service award. The Rising Star award which recognises young innovators (16 – 25) was presented jointly to Chloe Davis and Sophie Tapscott for their work and commitment in supporting other young people at the Mix in Ipswich Street Stowmarket

Whilst I know you have many of the planning applications on the Parish Council's meeting I am pleased to note the 'Mens' Shed' has been approved and I was happy to offer £1000 of my locality budget in support.

Any other projects which require funding please contact me to see if I can still help.

Please also note my contact details are now by email or my mobile phone number only

07889 301426

Cllr Mrs Kathie Guthrie