

REPORT FROM MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MIKE NORRIS TO CREETING ST MARY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 20TH MAY 2020

Please find below a brief report on some of the areas that I have been involved in as one of your District Councillors during the past year.

Having been re-elected in the May 2019 District Elections, I was then appointed to the Joint Audit and Standards Committee, Development Control (Planning) Committee B, and the Suffolk Joint Standards Board, on Mid Suffolk District Council. I am also a Mid Suffolk councillor contact, being the Liberal Democrats spokesperson for Planning and Finance.

On the Joint Audit and Standards Committee we deal with such matters as monitoring and signing off both Internal and External Audit Reports and any related regulatory matters that may arise, and also the verification of Mid Suffolk's Annual Accounts and liaising with the External Auditors on any potential issues that are identified.

Development Control (Planning) has been an interesting experience over the past year with several quite contentious planning applications to consider, mainly driven by Central Government's requirement for increased housing allocations. The Coronavirus has also had an impact on the way in which Development Control Committee meetings take place and recent meetings have been held online via Skype, albeit with the usual invitations and opportunity for parish councils, objectors and supporters to participate, as is normal.

As a ward member I have been involved in a number of local issues on behalf of residents – for example I am a member of the local working group for the 'Access for All' project at Needham Market railway station. The Coronavirus situation has inevitably had an impact on the delivery of this project, as it has also on Mid Suffolk's Visitor Centre project at Needham Lake, which I am on the member working group for. The original intention was that the Visitor Centre should be open by the end of this summer season, however it now looks as if it will not now be operational until early spring next year.

Work on both of these projects is ongoing as far as is possible at this time.

Both District Cllr. Steve Phillips and I were pleased to be able to financially support Creeting St Mary Social Club and the Diamond Jubilee Village Hall Committee from our MSDC 2019/20 Locality Awards fund. 2020/21 Locality Awards scheme applications opened on 1st April and are available up to 31st December of this year, so if you are interested in submitting an application please contact either myself or Steve for an application form.

I hope that this gives you a flavour of some of the areas that I have been involved in – there are several other matters that I have been involved with, but I think this report is quite long enough already.

District Cllr. Mike Norris
mike.norris@midsuffolk.gov.uk Tel: 01449 720871