

## **EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

### **WOODBIDGE WARD - July 2019**

We held our first surgery on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July we did not have any members of the public attend but it did give us the opportunity to discuss what's happened over the past month and thoughts on what's coming up - a very useful and productive Saturday morning.

The Strategic Planning Committee has held a first meeting. This committee consists of both the North & South Planning Committees, the portfolio holder for planning David Richie, Phillip Ridley Head of Planning & Coastal Management and senior planning officers. Terms of Reference were agreed, it is intended that this committee will meet bi-monthly alternating between Melton and Lowestoft. Planning applications that have a district wide impact or a wide public local interest will come before this committee.

#### **The next meeting of the Committee is to be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30**

"It is expected that several strategic planning applications will be presented to the Committee at this meeting, which officers anticipate will attract an increased number of members of the public. Bearing in mind the geographical location of the applications to be presented, the meeting has been moved from Lowestoft to East Suffolk House Melton".

As papers will not be served for this meeting until 1 week before hand I will leave councillors to speculate what is likely to be on the agenda!

**Workshops and training sessions are ongoing** - All members are encouraged to attend the Working with East Suffolk Communities Induction Workshop to be held at Melton on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

I have completed the Planning training and hopefully two Town Councillors have had the opportunity to take part in the training session for Towns and parishes.

The next Council meeting is the 24<sup>th</sup> July Riverside Lowestoft.

Climate Change Emergency - The District has this under consideration and more information on progress when available.

Both Chris and I attended a hastily arranged meeting at East Suffolk House on 4<sup>th</sup> July to hear the pre-consultation briefing on the Ipswich Northern Route. I think it is fair to say that neither of us was impressed with the way the data had been gathered, the roll out and timescale of the consultation and the online questionnaire - not to mention the building 10-1500K homes as the 20% local contribution to pay for it and the complete lack of response when asked about public transport.

**Woodbridge is Open for Business:** we are going to be inquiring whether Woodbridge can have a 1 hour free policy in our car parks the same as Wickham Market.

As part of this scheme Chris has held a productive meeting with some ESDC officers to start to encourage pop up shop/business occupancy in central Woodbridge, offering a combination of landlord incentives, reductions in business rates as well as additional start up business support

Small Producers Market - Chris is using a portion of his Community Budget to fund the purchase of 12 small market stalls for Choose Woodbridge CiC, these will be likely used in Whisstock's Place at the same time at the Creators & Makers Fair that is held in the Longshed building. These will be available at no cost for local small producers/food makers etc. to offer an easy low cost route to market their wares.

**Conservation Zone proposed changes** - we have put forward opinions on the following areas the rear of 35 Burkitt Road and the land to the rear of Beech Way and Ash Close.

**Outside Bodies:**

Kyson Fairways Committee - no meetings held yet, but they are about to conduct some investigative dredging near Methersgate to assess how silted up the channel & moorings are.

Suffolk Coastal Disability Forum - Chris has now been appointed ESDC representative to this; the first meeting that I will attend due to be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

ESTA: East Suffolk Travellers Association - I have now been confirmed as a representative on this committee.

**Ward Visit:** As part of his familiarisation initiative Cllr. Steve Gallant Leader of East Suffolk District Council will be visiting Woodbridge on the 25<sup>th</sup> July.

Cllr. Kay Yule

Cllr. Chris Mapey.