**District Cllr Report Battisford and Ringshall Ward**

**Barking, Battisford, Great Bricett, Offton, Ringshall, Willisham**

**June 2023**

**MSDC Annual Council Meeting**

The MSDC Annual Council Meeting held on 22nd May. The 24 Green Party councillors officially became the administration at Mid Suffolk with a cabinet composed initially of 6 councillors. Andy Mellen, as leader outlined our initial priorities to lead and work with other bodies to address the challenges faced by our communities: cost of living, affordable homes, local services, public transport and climate change. Cllr Rowland Warboys was elected as Chair of the Council.

**Charity support**

The Chair’s chosen charities for this year will be The Forge Workshops in Thornham Magna and ‘Beyond the Wall’, a charity based in the Walled Garden at Thornham Estates which works with people from 16 years and upwards who have a disability. The outgoing Chair, Cllr James Caston, raised over £4,000 for his chosen charity – Stowmarket Autistic Spectrum Disorder Saturday Clubs – during the past year.

**Half-term Activities**

A number of activities for children and young people were organised for half term. These included family cooking sessions, fencing, dance classes and kids’ clubs. Children who receive free school meals were able to swim for free at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre. Details of all the activities are available on the website https://www.babergh.gov.uk/communities/whats-on/holiday-activities-fund/

**Community Grants available in Mid Suffolk**

Capital Grants – these are aimed at assisting community groups in making improvements and repairs to village halls, play areas, sports clubs, recreational facilities and other social infrastructure. They can cover to up to 100% of total project costs to a maximum grant of £10,000. Capital Grants are open for applications from the 1st April 2023 to 2nd June 2023.

Community Development Grants – provides financial support to help with the delivery of local place-based initiatives and activities, where gaps in provision have been identified. The grants is available towards either revenue (ongoing) or capital (new or one-off) projects. It can cover up to 100% of project costs to a maximum of £20,000. Applications are open for applications from the 1st April 2023 to 23rd June 2023.

Councillors Locality Award – the award will be open for applications towards the end of May 2023.

**Planning Committee**

Cllr Mansel is to be the Chair of planning committee and there is to be a change to the schedule of planning committees. The first daytime planning committee will be held on Wed 21st June and then every 4 weeks. In between those main meetings provisional meetings will be scheduled for 17:30 on the intermediate fortnightly Wednesdays.

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