

District Councillor Report Battisford and Ringshall Ward

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

Submitted by Councillor Daniel Pratt for November 2019

New Corporate Plan

The Joint Strategic Plan (2016 – 2020) has been refreshed by the Cabinet members of both Councils. The new corporate plan includes both a vision and a mission statement and is summarised with a graphic representation. This was discussed at the October Council meeting, where the Green Group proposed an amendment to include an all-encompassing theme of environmental sustainability which should underpin all activity within the Council. This was rejected by the administration.

Environment Task Group

A cross party group of councillors from Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils has now formed and agreed a programme of meetings to address the Climate Emergency and hopefully come up with some strategies for the Councils to adopt in due course.

Trees in the District

The Council administration voted against a proposal to increase tree cover across the district in October. To counter this, Green Group Members are considering a range of projects including a community orchard in Stowmarket and we would like to extend this idea to the parishes of the district.

Housing

Mid Suffolk are planning to deliver two completely affordable housing developments on the middle school sites in Needham Market and Stowmarket. Both developments will include homes for affordable rent, social rent and shared ownership. Over the last 4 years Mid Suffolk have built and acquired enough homes to just about keep pace with the loss of properties to the Right to Buy Scheme.

General Election – December 12

As you will be aware, a General Election has been called for Thursday 12 December. MSDC will be sending out the Notice of Parliamentary Election on Friday 8 November, with a request that copies be displayed on parish noticeboards. The issue of the Notice of Election signals a pre-election period which restricts some activities. All MSDC Council and Cabinet meetings will be cancelled, as will Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. Next meetings will be in January.

Free recycling talks for residents

Suffolk's Recycling Centres offer free 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - not a Waste of time!' sessions to interested parties to learn more about ways to reduce waste and recycling. If the Parish Council would like to arrange a session, please let one of us know. Further information is available on the Suffolk Recycling website

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