

Report to 20 July 2009

We are lucky enough to have the County Councillor Eddy Alcock in our midst and as MSDC and SCC work closely together so I do not wish to duplicate much of what he has said with regard to Waste and the Boundary Committee.

Rubbish. . The area we cover over the A14 is being maintained to a high level of cleanliness and over a 12 month period collected 45 tonnes of rubbish. Our recycling is above the 41% mark. Mid Suffolk and its residents are rising to the challenge.

On a sour note there is a Blue Nissan van with a silver and black cage touring the countryside, doing garden work and fly tipping. Please call 01449 724941 to report any sightings.

Boundary Committee -I am not going into the mechanics of how we have arrived at a very unsatisfactory situation, with much money being wasted, but yet again there are more delays without any decision from the Boundary Committee on the Local Government Review

It is outrageous that we, the taxpayer, have to pick up the bills of an inefficient government who cannot at least get the process right let alone make a decision on time. Whatever the decision is MSDC vow to make 'that' system work

Budget - MSDC, like many other Councils are under severe budgetary pressure. Costs administering benefit claims have risen but our income is less than predicted. Partly from reduced planning applications. I am currently on a Statement of Accounts Committee and can inform you the Council is doing its utmost to deliver the services its residents deserve.

Snoasis - You might think this update has nothing to do with Debenham but it does and will have an impact on the Council and its finances. We cannot move this important development forwards because of planning issues laid down by the government inspector. The planning department and developer and Whitehall are working hard to resolve.

Housing -The current credit crisis and reduced planning applications the affordable Housing targets are slipping. This is being closely monitored.

Choice Based Lettings - This is the new system whereby people may apply for housing which is advertised on our website. The majority of people are bidding via the website but if people are having difficulties contact MSDC who will be able to help.

Scrutiny – There is an excellent report on the MSDC Website (24 Pages long) which I would recommend people to dip in and out of to see what has been achieved. For my sins I have been allocated a seat on this committee and we are working with SCC and I went to my first meeting last week.

Health Care – As well as pressure from MDC at the unsatisfactory state of affairs with regard to the removal of vital services from Ipswich Hospital I have been personally writing to Carol Taylor- Brown expressing dissatisfaction of the dumbing down of the Ipswich Hospital. Needless to say I have received meal mouthed statistical responses. She only seems worried about statistics rather than our healthcare. I ask everyone to lobby their MP and the PCT. We need these expert services set up in this County and not shipped out to Norfolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire, as good as they might be. Perhaps if we do away with a layer of ‘managers and or quangos’ then may be they could afford an Angioplasty Unit in this County. We must support our Doctors and Surgeons and medical experts.

Finally as well as other issues (training sessions for Licensing) I have been made Vice Chairman of Planning B Committee and chaired a very important application for another Phase of the Cedars Park Development at Stowmarket. Not an easy Task but it is in keeping with the Stowmarket Regeneration Plan on track to which MSDC are committed.

Finally Finally! Well done to the Arts Festival Committee. I joined in with one or two of the events and yet again this puts Debenham on the map.

Kathie Guthrie
District councillor