

# **District Cllr Report Battisford and Ringshall Ward**

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

**Submitted by Councillor Daniel Pratt for March 2020**

### **Portfolio Holder Reports and Full Council Meeting**

The portfolio holders' reports were published but questions on these were limited to just over 30 minutes, and in future portfolio holders' reports will go to Cabinet meetings instead of Full Council meetings. In full council, Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan have been adopted.

### **District Council land and grass verges**

I have requested a consultation from Peter Garrett, Head of Public Realm, to identify small pieces of land and roadside verges that are owned or managed by the District Council for the purpose of planting trees and other types of restoration. The mowing regime of some roadside verges could also be reduced for the benefit of wildlife.

### **Planning Enforcement**

There is currently a review of enforcement processing and procedures. The aim to make the enforcement service more efficient and transparent, and it is hoped that this will be completed by the end of March. Council encourage the use of the online "Report It" form for any new complaints. If the relevant questions are completed, then the support team can create a case without any delay.

### **Budget**

Following Cabinet agreement, the budget will be due for approval at Full Council on 27 February. We have put forward proposals to make Mid Suffolk more sustainable, from housing and transport to biodiversity, and negotiating with the Conservative Administration to include some of these proposals in the budget.

### **Climate Change Task and Finishing Group**

The Climate Change task group have had several meetings where different aspects are discussed but so far few actions or recommendations have been brought forward.

### **Civil Parking Enforcement**

Preparations are continuing for the transfer of parking enforcement from the Police to Suffolk County Council. Enforcement within Mid Suffolk will be managed by West Suffolk DC. If enforcement against yellow line and obstructive parking on pavements is successful, drivers may park in more dangerous locations. District staff will have no remit to deal with dangerous parking; responsibility rest with the police and they may not be able to give this a high priority.

### **Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner**

Suffolk Police are to recruit 54 extra police officers by March 2021; all costs associated with this uplift in staff numbers are being met by a Central Government grant of £6million.

**Email:** [daniel.pratt@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.pratt@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 07775389193