



Councillor David Whybrow (Conservative)
Mid Suffolk District Council Member for Ringshall Ward

Report to Full Meeting of Great Bricett Parish Council

Tuesday 25th July 2017

1.0 Planning (since 23 May 2017 to date of report)

There are no planning matters to report.

2.0 Local Government Ward Boundary Review

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking people for their help to draw up a new pattern of council wards for Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District Council. The consultation is the first stage of an electoral review which will re-draw ward boundaries across both districts.

The Commission has also announced that it is minded to recommend that each council should have fewer councillors in future. For Mid Suffolk, that means 34 councillors should be elected to the council in future: a reduction of six.

The Commission now needs information from local people and groups to help it to produce a new pattern of wards to accommodate councillors across both districts. I urge the Parish Council to respond. You can take part by visiting the Boundary Commissions website at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/>

In drawing up new boundaries, the Commission aims to deliver electoral equality for voters in district council elections so that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters. The review also aims to ensure that the new council wards reflect, as far as possible, the interests and identities of communities across the districts.

The initial proposals for consultation can be found here - <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/Mid-Suffolk-2022-Electorate.pdf>

3.0 New Mid Suffolk Locality Funding initiative

A new Mid Suffolk District Council's Locality Award programme is now open and is welcoming applications until 16th February 2018. This is like the scheme that ran two years ago.

The programme means that each Mid Suffolk councillor has a £6,250 pot that he or she can use to award to projects or organisations that have a direct impact on Mid Suffolk communities. Funding awards can range from £250 upwards and each councillor can support up to 15 projects.

Applicants selected for an award must be able to demonstrate that their project, event or group meets one or more of Mid Suffolk's Strategic Priorities and where relevant should be able to demonstrate its sustainability over the coming years.

Any community groups wishing to apply for a share of the funding can do so by contacting me. We have tried to make this a very simple process, in that the form is short and simple to complete. Groups will be asked to supply a record of their spend or a final account at the end of their event or project. With the move towards paperless working, we are trying to keep this process as electronic as possible.

Awards may be made for a wide range of activities including BUT NOT LIMITED to: Sports tournaments, sports equipment, play equipment, pavilion updates, hearing loops, defibrillators, start-up lunch club, pop up cafes, coffee mornings, energy efficiency projects, promoting exercise and outdoor activities in rural areas, walking leaflets, walking festivals, dance classes, exercise classes, older peoples exercise, one off celebratory events recognising national or regional events. History projects resulting in a lasting benefit for the community. Contribution towards installation of WIFI in rural areas, enhancing local nature sites, training for volunteers, first aid, H&S safeguarding, fire safety training, group leader training, speed watch campaigns, anti-social behaviour and associated prevention activities.

4.0 Conclusion

I trust the forgoing is informative and relevant.

Finally, if there are specific matters that you would like me to investigate or report on – just ask.

Contacts details as follows:

david.whybrow@midsuffolk.gov.uk

david@dswwhybrow.com

07799 068 926

Or visit me at The Old Rectory, Stowmarket Road, Ringshall. IP14 2HZ