

Parish Report SEPTEMBER 2017

Councillor

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As I said in My last report the council is considering changing to a “HYBRID” system of governance; a cabinet but with committees; however it seems these will NOT be held in public .Unfortunately despite putting an amendment to achieve that we were outvoted. I even put before the full council evidence from Kent county council that does hold its committees in public.

COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES; again we were out voted having said we feel that this is the wrong time to give some of the leading councillors such a large increase. We did get agreement that the carers allowance be increased to £10 per hour for children.

HIGHWAYS; the review of highways staff has been completed; We now come under the team based in Rougham.

RoughamSDC@suffolk.gov.uk

COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATORS ; Melanie Hall will be responsible for looking at reports and enquires.

COMMUNITY WARDENS ; Cheryl Smith, Mick Baker, David Stiles will spend their time inspecting defects and working with town and parish councils.

COMMUNITY ENGINEER; Anthony Smith

However you will still be expected to use the Customer service phone number; 0345 606 6171

MIDSUFFOLK; the council made it,s final recommendation to the Boundary Commission on it,s preferred ward boundaries. Both my Liberal democrat group and the Green party group have put in our own options. These will be considered by the Commission and report back to the council.

The council is aiming to move to Endeavour House in Ipswich by the end of September.

LOCALITY FUND. I have put in the bid for your grit bins, hopefully that has been paid? I and all councillors have contributed £250 towards the new Coffee Caravan after the old one was stolen.

JOINT LOCAL PLAN; The council has agreed to start the consultation on the new local plan. The final document is scheduled to be submitted in summer 2018, for examination winter 2018 and final adoption, spring 2019. This shows any land in each parish that may be considered for development.

BUSINESS RATES; the council is helping those businesses that are entitled to rate reduction. I have asked that we review what rate relief can be given to local businesses including pubs and village shops.

HOUSING; the government has given some councils including Mid Suffolk some money to deal with the number of second homes. This can be used to help with setting up Community Land trusts which can look into providing affordable homes.