

# ANNUAL Report 2018

## Councillor

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**Obviously, the big storey was the BEAST FROM THE EAST! I'm sure there were numerous problems with the snow and road closures, there will be a back log for any works that had been scheduled. I met with mark Stevens head of highways to get a face to face discussion on the highways contract.**

**HIGHWAYS;** again, complaints about potholes has filled me in box!! The council is borrowing £21million form the public works loan board for highways repairs; I just hope this will do some good and has been given a further £ 2.5million from the government. Hopefully we will see some changes and good work completed.

The other issue is that of diversions! Some of which seem to be nonsensical!

**SCHOOL TRANSPORT;** I am shocked that the proposed change in policy could mean some children having to change schools if they are not already at their NEAREST school, if not would be charged about £900. The impact on Thurston Community could be a disaster as would the possible increase in cars coming through Beyton.

My group called the first cabinet decision into the scrutiny committee, but I was disappointed that they gave very little recommendations back to the cabinet. A petition with more signatures than any other ever presented to the council. At that meeting of the council I again stressed just how devastating these changes would be.

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March a motion to hold an extraordinary full council meeting was put where all councillors, rather than just the 9 cabinet members, will be able to vote and make a recommendation to the cabinet in June. I am dismayed that this was voted down.

**FLOODING; Along with the parish council we are meeting to try to fix the problem once and for all!!**

**PLASTIC BOTTLES;** At the meeting of Suffolk County Council on 7 December, I proposed a motion calling on the Council to pledge support for the introduction of such a scheme, and to offer Suffolk as a pilot area should one be needed. This was met with unanimous support and we wrote to the minister urging him to implement this new recycling scheme in the UK. I am therefore delighted that Mr Gove has done what I asked!!!

**WOODLAND TRUST CHARTER;** all councillors signed up to the Woodland trust charter.

**Cllr Noble (who at the time of writing was the leader of the council and may not be now??) has instructed a research company to investigate the possibility of some form of unitary council for Suffolk. This was not discussed with the leaders of all the districts**

and boroughs who were unsurprisingly not at all pleased. They intend to do their own review.

**NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE;** A new cex has been appointed; Nicola Beach, who comes from Essex county council.

**LOCALITY BUDGET;** I am pleased to have been able to help with the cost of grit bins, staging and oven at the village hall, plus help with the costs on the playground.

**MID SUFFOLK;**

The move to Endeavour house in Ipswich is now complete, though later than anticipated and with some extra costs. Sharing the building with Suffolk county council has some advantages in that more officers in the same place, but I continued to vote against the move as it has taken the council away from the community.

**BOUNDARY CHANGES;** the Boundary Commission has issued a second draft of proposals for new ward boundaries and with fewer councillors. Currently the suggestion is to include Hissett and part of the Onehouse ward.

**MERGER;** the proposed merger with Babergh council has been put on hold. Was this due to Cllr Nobles plan??

**NEIGHBOUR PLAN;** congratulations on considering whether to have a Neighbour hood plan. The current lack of a 5-year land supply at Mid Suffolk is making villages susceptible to speculative planning applications.