

# **District Cllr Report Thurston Ward**

## **Beyton, Norton, Thurston, Tostock, Stowlangtoft**

**February 2023**

### **MSDC Meeting.**

Mid Suffolk District Council financial officers explained that the 2022/23 predicted surplus would be reduced by approx. £1 million to £3 million For 2023/24 the proposed budget was amended to include our Green Party proposal to make £2 million worth of grants for energy saving measures available for our district householders. Our project to make 2 electric buses available schedule services for rural villages continues. The budget was passed unanimously.

There will be a zero increase in our District Council Tax element. However, rents on our council houses will be increased by 7%. Councillors argued that since benefits were being increased by approximately 10% our tenants would be able to manage. This decision was not passed unanimously.

It was decided to increase the budget of our Communities and Wellness section. So from April grants would be made available for local organisations and communities to develop, improve and expand their building and activities. These grants can also be used for appropriate feasibility studies.

### **Thurston Community College/Beyton Sixth Form.**

Held meetings with appropriate representatives of both sites exploring opportunities for improved community access to the above facilities such as meeting rooms, dance studios, football pitches, Netball courts, fitness studios and performance areas.

### **Planning**

Thurston Parish Councils lost the case against MSDC/Bloor homes. Discussion now moves to reserved matters for the 210 house development off Beyton Road in Thurston.

Planning officers are minded to refuse the Gladman Homes proposed development off Ixworth Road.

**Gateway 14** - The 'Range' has paid our MSDC subsidiary the initial £30 million.

### **Environment**

Our district now has a 'Climate Change Manager'. One of the roles for this officer is to develop a plan for Electric Vehicle charging points. Accompanied Suffolk Wildlife trust officer and the 33 acre project lead on a tour of the site. Continued to push for the Cycle Route 51 change between School Road and Church Road in Thurston.

**Locality Fund** - Some of the equipment needed to set up a pickle ball club was the last 2022/23 grant.

**Austin Davies**

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