

# **District Cllr Report Thurston Ward**

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

### **January 2023**

#### **MSDC Meeting.**

Mid Suffolk District Council was updated on the business conducted at the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee covering work on homelessness, refugee housing and cost of living support. The current lack of a formal link between Suffolk Association Local Councils (SALC) and MSDC was raised. (the CEO later confirmed that MSDC are in discussion with SALC).

Changed the Council Tax Reduction (Working Age) Scheme and which will come into effect on 1st April 2023. Up to 100% maximum deduction for all legacy benefit households and introduce a simplified scheme for universal credit (UC) customers that will allow 'passported' claims to be automated based on the UC financial data without additional verification. Create a transitional protection scheme to support those households who would be worse off under the simplified UC scheme.

Financial position in the first 6 months of the year was reviewed. MSDC remains in a sound position with our overall debt reduced on £6 million. While other councils are being forced to put up bills in order to balance their books, Mid Suffolk is proposing to freeze its share of council tax – absorbing rising costs, rather than passing them on to residents.

Council was asked to agree the recommendations of the Community Governance Review Working Group. Norton, Beyton, Tostock and Stowlangtoft Parish Councils are to remain unchanged. Thurston Parish Council should be increased from 11 to 13 councillors.

#### **Planning**

Continuing to support Thurston Parish Councils case in the Supreme Court case against MSDC/Bloor homes.

#### **Gateway 14**

The 'Range' warehousing ground has been broken.

#### **Locality Fund**

Support given to the purchase of a new zip line at Norton village playing field. Accepted a request to help Tostock village hall refurbish a side room which can be made available for hire. Aided the purchase of a new gate for the children's play area.

#### **Austin Davies**

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