District Councillors Report to 17 July 2020

First of all again a big thank you to all those volunteers, shops, and businesses who have helped our communities through these difficult times. I hold my hands up I have rarely been seen out and about but I am still working for the community and as ever in the back ground and always available to assist.

From the end of July the National food parcels (for those who were contacted by the NHS) will cease as they were centrally funded. However, if Shielding restarts then I understand they will resume. MSDC got involved under the ‘home but not alone set up’ and will continue to monitor those people calling for help. Since March over 11, 000 calls have been taken on the ‘home but not alone’ telephone line. It is noted the call on that facility has lowered and will currently still be manned during week days. Our own system set up here in Debenham have continued to offer help and are monitoring the situation.

For the moment I am not distributing my locality budget unless there is a an urgent and pressing need as I see how the situation re the pandemic materialises.

Discretionary grants have been distributed by MSDC to assist businesses and whilst the first tranche of this money has ceased there is a second phase and there was a press release on 2nd July announcing this. More information is available on line.

Mid Suffolk District Council’s multi million pound investment work to deliver a total of over 130 homes in Needham Market is due to begin as the Council’s former headquarters. Phase 1, with 32 homes, it has been carefully designed to include the original listed building which will be brought back into residential use. There will be a mix of 2 and 3 bedroomed detached, semi detached and one and two bedroom apartments and a retail unit, as well as adjacent open spaces, woodland walk and benches near the existing Duck pond. The second phase will provide an additional 60 homes. It is hoped this will help not only to help post Covid recovery but give local people homes within easy access of many facilities. Other projects including the Visitor Centre at Needham Lake, and redevelopment at the former Needham Market Middle School site should also help to attract Tourism and many visitors.

Many of you will be aware that the Taylor Wimpey Application in its current form has been withdrawn.

You will also note that the site off Little London Hill which has planning permission is now moving forward. The site off Low Road is now on line and I am noting all the comments.

Since the last time I have had a virtual Licensing Committee meeting and a Virtual Planning meeting and although we are all working differently and things ‘will never be the same’ I do hope we can get back to holding some of our meetings in person.

In the meantime we must all be vigilant and stay safe.

Kind regards

Cllr Mrs Kathie Guthrie