

District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward – Feb 2024

Serving Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Aspall, Bedingfield, Debenham, Kenton & Winston

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Out & About:	<p>In January we saw the Flood Forum take place, and hopefully this addressed some of the issues and ways to move forward for future proofing. I found it brilliant that so many people came. The panel found it very illuminating, I particularly valued the historical information provided by our Residents and the Environment Agency found the first hand accounts of Storm Babet invaluable. Together we can all certainly make progress in finding ways to improve our resilience when it comes to flooding and emergencies. Over 350 people attended the forums held, a link to the recording will be provided as soon as I obtain one (as I write it was only 6 days ago). If anyone wants to become more involved please get in touch or come to your next Parish Council meeting as this is just the beginning.</p> <p>For February I want to continue to highlight the groups and initiatives we have in our ward.</p> <p>In 2023 I visited with Jeannie Buckingham who runs 2 Fields, the Community Supported Farm off Low Road in Debenham.</p> <p>It was amazing to see the integration of old and new farming methods in providing a truly biodiverse chemical free environment for people to experience. Since 2011 there has been a rapid transformation from intensive arable to diverse ecological and regenerative farming. Local People produce local food for local people. There is now Broadleaved woodland, a Traditional Orchard & Nuttery, Food Forest, Agroforestry and pasture along with 4 ponds to hold back the water. There is a flock of Shetland breeding ewes for wool & meat. A summer pig club to raise pork for currently 10-15 households. The pigs fertilise and turn the soil before growing vegetables the following year. In the food forest there are edibles, medicinals or other useful products such as, nitrogen fixing, canes from bamboo, Hemp for weaving/clothing. They have allowed nature to return without chemicals or artificial fertilisers to disrupt the natural soil biome making the land far more resilient to climate change. I would encourage anyone interested in learning more to make a visit especially if you want to get involved in the local tree nursery set on preserving local tree species.</p> <p>Debenham Shed craft days have been set out for 2024, I would encourage people to go to these on a Saturday for some skill accumulating fun.</p> <p>Debenham Library, such an invaluable resource in the village. It's not all about books, although I do like to read, it is also home to many an enterprise and will be hosting a Hedgehog Discovery Day on 17th February and one not to be missed in the Half Term.</p>
Cabinet/Council News	<p><u>Mid Suffolk in February</u></p> <p>Mid Suffolk District Cabinet are meeting on 7th February and we have a Full Council meeting on 22nd February the agendas can be found online around a week before. We will be looking at the budget for the next financial year among other issues.</p> <p>I can also always ask a question to Council on a residents behalf. Anyone is welcome to attend, and they are also live on 'You Tube' for those who want to attend virtually. A link to the agenda and papers can be found on our website or by searching 'Mid Suffolk Cabinet Meeting February 2024'.</p> <p>My contact details are as above, please use them if you need me.</p> <p>Teresa</p>