

# District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward Serving Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Aspall, Bedingfield, Debenham, Kenton & Winston

July 2023

National	<p>As you will be aware the cost of living and housing continues to be difficult. With this in mind it is heartening to know of the Shed on Low road in Debenham on a Friday and the get togethers taking place in Dove Cottage on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. If you have a group or are thinking of forming a group to help please get in touch.</p> <p><b>People and Place Plans update</b></p> <p>The People and Place Plan (PPP) forms part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which is due a third reading in Parliament before the summer recess. Further details should emerge regarding the statutory weighting of the document, the level of evidence required and how the scheme may be funded. MSDC is one of six councils in England that won a bid to trial the new scheme to help Local Authorities and communities develop a more community-led approach to planning, a soft touch approach to neighbourhood plans.</p>
Getting acquainted and updated	<p>Since my last report I have been getting to know our Sustainable Travel Officer, Locality Officer, Biodiversity officer and Town Centre co-ordinator to find out what they can offer the ward of Debenham. I will be focussing on improving Walking and Cycling routes and heading up a pilot for electric buses. To improve our surroundings by creating beautiful and diverse green areas of the ward. I will also be looking to improve awareness of local business throughout the ward. Should you need any support or advice and even funding on any of these topics please get pop me an email. We already have a number of groups in the ward who are working on these things for where they live and it would be great see other villages getting involved and obtaining opportunities for the residents.</p>
Planning & Development	<p><b>Electric Vehicle Charging Points</b></p> <p>Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been awarded a £300k grant from the Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles to install 28 new 22kW EV charging points in several carparks including most of the council-owned carparks in Stowmarket.</p> <p>If you are a community space it might interest you to know that Plug In Suffolk are offering free installation of electric charge points for public use, go to <a href="http://www.greensuffolk.org/plug-in-suffolk">www.greensuffolk.org/plug-in-suffolk</a></p>
Event & Grants	<p>Stage 5 of the <b>Tour of Britain</b> Mens cycling race is coming through Suffolk on 7<sup>th</sup> September. It will be passing directly through Debenham Ward. Both the high school and primary school will be organising things for the Children and I am hoping this will be an opportunity to place a spotlight on local business. Any business wanting to get involved and to have some free advertising on the 'taste of the tour' website is encouraged to get in touch.</p> <p>My Locality grant is now open for the year and already being used, so please let me know if you have any projects you may need financial support with.</p>

Cllr Teresa Davis

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