

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

June 2023

Annual Council meeting	At the Annual Council Meeting held on 22 nd May, the 24 Green Party councillors officially became the administration at Mid Suffolk. Andy Mellen, as leader outlined our initial priorities to lead and work with other bodies to address the challenges faced by our communities, cost of living, affordable homes, local services, public transport and climate change. There will be initially a cabinet of 6 councillors. Cllr Rowland Warboys was elected as Chair of the Council, with Cllr Dan Pratt as Vice-chair.
Getting acquainted and updated	In less than a month of service I have been able to attend Bedingfield, Kenton and Winston meetings. It has been lovely to meet you and I hope this is the first of many. I will aim to meet those representatives in Debenham, Aspell and Ashfield-cum-Thorpe. I have attended the annual meeting of the Debenham leisure Centre, attended the Save The Angel meeting and met with officers from the Localities and Communities team, and made initial contact with those regarding biodiversity, tree canopy, assets and business growth. I have also been made Cabinet Member for Thriving Towns & Rural Communities and attended cabinet briefings, meetings & planning training. I will be attending more training, meetings and finding out more and more about the different departments and staff working for Mid Suffolk and how we can make changes for the better along with meeting with established Groups, Towns and Parishes.
Planning	Cllr Mansel is to be the Chair of planning committee and there is to be a change to the schedule of planning committees. The first daytime planning committee will be held on Wed 21 st June and then every 4 weeks. In between those main meetings provisional meetings will be scheduled for 17:30 on the intermediate fortnightly Wednesdays.
Grants	<p>The Communities Grants Team would like me to draw your attention to grants they are offering:-</p> <p>The first two grant schemes which may be of interest to community groups: Capital Grant and the Community Development Grant. Details and application forms for both schemes are available on the Mid Suffolk website (link here), together with grant guidelines.</p> <p>The IP14 Wellbeing Fund is a new £50,000 fund to enable new or expanded activities that support mental health resilience in the IP14 postcode area. The fund is part of the Suffolk Public Mental Health programme that aims to ‘support, enable and strengthen the protective factors for good mental wellbeing’. Up to £5,000.00 can be applied for, towards community groups and projects based or delivering activity within the IP14 postcode area of Mid Suffolk. Applications must meet one of the Fund's three Priorities, which can be found on our Guidance Notes. View Guidance Notes. The IP14 Wellbeing Fund closes for applications on 7th July 2023.</p>

Cllr Teresa Davis

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