

District councillor's report, April 2013

1. Community Engagement Programme – Mid Suffolk

Thank you to all who provided the District Council with information during our community engagement programme last summer and autumn. We received responses from over 560 individuals, town and parish councils, businesses and other organisations across the two districts. This programme was undertaken to ensure that we understood the needs, issues and aspirations of our community and how these could be realised in the context of our budget constraints and national policy. Information was gathered by means of online surveys, questionnaires, meetings and via special events in specific localities.

All the responses have been considered and the issues were fed into a series of workshops for Councillors held between September and November along with information from other sources. These resulted in the production of a draft vision and draft priorities for each council which were approved by Executive Committee for Mid Suffolk.

Mid-Suffolk's draft vision is: "We will work to ensure that the economy, environment and communities of Mid Suffolk continue to thrive and achieve their full potential".

Mid-Suffolk's draft priorities emerged as:

- Lead and shape the local economy by promoting and helping to deliver sustained economic growth which is balanced with respect for wildlife, heritage and the natural and built environment.
- Ensure that there are enough good quality, environmentally efficient and cost effective homes with the appropriate tenures and in the right locations.
- Encourage and support individuals and communities to be self sufficient, strong, healthy and safe.

Using the information provided, Councillors also produced a list of desired outcomes – what the districts will look like if our aims are achieved. These are currently being refined and will be fed back to the community later in the year.

Once we have agreed what we wish to achieve we will need to work on the 'how' which will include consideration of the suggestions, ideas and best practice you put forward. This will then determine how we allocate our limited resources and will be used in transforming the organisation to achieve the desired outcomes.

Comments were also received on what is expected from council staff in terms of responsiveness and attitudes. Many of these comments have already been acted upon, all have been noted and we are working on bringing about the cultural changes required.

Community engagement was not a one-off exercise and we wish to continue the dialogue with our communities. If you have any comments, queries or suggestions please contact us via the tellus@midsuffolk.gov.uk e-mail address.

2. Spring Clean 2013

We are calling upon local people to come forward and take part in one of our Spring Litter Picks. These are part of Suffolk County Council's "Creating the Greenest County" initiative which aims to respond to climate change and enhance the natural and historic environment.

Last year 51 parishes took part across Mid Suffolk and 25 in Babergh and this year jointly we already have 34 events registered.

We know it makes a real difference and makes Mid Suffolk and Babergh desirable places to live, work and visit.

To find out how we can support you, please give us a call or send an email: to Sarah Carter at Mid Suffolk on 01449 724946 sarah.carter@midsuffolk.gov.uk.

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