

District councillor's report, December 2012

1. Tim Passmore elected as Suffolk's Police & Crime Commissioner

As a result, he stepped down as Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council from November 21. Cllr Derrick Haley becomes interim leader until a new leader is elected at the next full Council meeting on December 20.

Following his election, information about the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel is now available on the Suffolk County Council Website at: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-community/working-in-partnership/police-and-crime-panel>

2. Mendlesham REP

Latest information from the Planning Dept is that Eco 2 have not withdrawn their application and have made it clear that they do not wish to do so. They have a right of appeal but also do not wish to pursue that route (at present).

As a result of the legal representations made prior to committee (which led to the matter being deferred), both Eco2 and MSDC sought their own legal advice. The outcome of that (following Counsel's advice) was essentially that under environmental impact legislation Eco2 *may* be able to submit further information in support of their environmental statement. Without prejudice last week the planning dept issued a Direction under the relevant legislation to Eco 2 to provide that information.

Once that information has been received, and the planning dept is satisfied that the additional information satisfies the legislation (but not necessarily that it would resolve other planning issues – i.e. the information satisfies a *procedural* matter) then we would undergo a further full formal consultation process in accordance with the legislation before returning the matter to committee.

3. Textile recycling scheme

The Suffolk textile scheme is working well across the County and we are getting a lot of positive feedback from residents, including charity shops as the whole issue of clothing and textiles has been raised which has had a positive effect on charity shops and charity bags.

So far the tonnage collected across Suffolk is in the region of 320 tonnes. We have negotiated a price of approximately £375 per tonne via our contractor (a UK-based textile processor), and it is intended that any monies received back to the authorities will be put towards the benefit of our communities. Clothes that are re-useable are sold on and the items unsuitable are used for stuffing and for rag.

However, for the time being we are not in a position to know exactly what the return on this project will be as the cost of setting up the scheme needs to be taken account of (e.g. providing information and replacement textile bags).

4. Dog & litter bin emptying service

The service is heavily subsidised, and while the subsidies will continue, annual increases in charges will be necessary in order to reduce the amount of subsidy. Town and Parish Councils recognise that the service provided was 'value for money', and will be informed of the need for an increase in charges. They will also be provided with a breakdown of the costs involved. Following the proposed increase in charges, the element of subsidy will still amount to 61%.