

District Councillors' Report for Parish Councils – April 2021

<p>Motion on Green Spaces</p>	<p>Our District group have worked with the Conservative administration to agree a motion regarding Green Spaces.</p> <p>We have agreed to:</p> <p>Carry out a review of green space to ensure that it is optimizing the biodiversity and well-being aspects of natural and amenity green space in Mid Suffolk.</p> <p>Prepare Supplementary planning guidance to support its biodiversity commitments, and inclusion of well-designed green spaces as a material consideration for all new housing developments.</p> <p>This work is to be carried out in line with the Joint Local Plan timetable.</p> <p>This motion received unanimous support.</p>
<p>Gateway 14/ Freeport</p>	<p>The latest financial economic growth idea from The government is to back a “freeport” in this region.</p> <p>Freeports are basically a duty-free area full of sheds, where goods can be shipped to and processed, (re-boxed or used in a manufacturing process) and these goods can be shipped out of this area tariff free.</p> <p>Freeports can be a magnet for manufacturing as well as warehousing etc the government is stating that this development will be zero carbon as the lorries will be running on “blue Hydrogen”</p> <p>What is very curious about this site, is that the District did not put this site forward to house a “gridserve” electric vehicle filling station, because they claimed the road network could not sustain the traffic, but we can open up a 156 acre lorry based warehouse & manufacturing operation without a problem.</p>
<p>Neighbourhood planning</p>	<p>Thorndon’s Neighbourhood Plan is progressing, as well as Mendlesham’s amended plan to include an allocations policy, bringing it in line with the draft Joint Local Plan</p> <p>Last month there was a land-mark planning decision in Fressingfield that clearly laid out what “weight “ should be afforded to a made Neighbourhood Plan that has an allocations policy delivering the required housing numbers.</p> <p>Officers of the District Council had suggested a development in Fressingfield should be approved despite it being in clear conflict with made Neighbourhood Plan, I proposed that the Planning Committee should refuse the application, but the officers stopped the meeting and discussed the legal issues that arose around this issue.</p> <p>The committee agreed to seek legal Counsels opinion on precisely the point of how much weight should be afforded to a made Neighbourhood Plan, the response was concise and clear, a made Neighbourhood plan in an area that has a five year land supply is a sound development plan and carries all weight, this was reported to the committee and the application that was recommended for refusal, was then recommended to be refused based on the legal advice regarding how serious Neighbourhood Plans should be treated.</p> <p>This is a huge vindication of all the hard work that communities put into these plans, as well as a wake-up call to planners to take them seriously.</p>
<p>Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan</p>	<p>The Mid Suffolk & Babergh Joint Local Plan has now been formally passed to the Inspector for examination. This is another step towards having an up to date Local Plan, it will be consulted on for 6 weeks after which the inspector will rule if the document is “sound”</p>

Councillor Andrew Stringer
andrew.stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk
 Telephone: 01449 780339