

Diss and Roydon County Councillor's Report

July – 2019

As I am sure many of you will already know, Cllr Graham Minshull has had a very serious accident, where he has injured his left leg. It is likely that he will be out of circulation for the next few months, and will be unable to attend council meetings or site meetings for his planning portfolio. I know you will join with me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Locally things have been quite busy. I escorted the SNDC planning committee around the Mere to view the proposed development on the land adjacent to the Town Council's garden. In addition I attended the public consultation re the proposed development on Parish Fields', both proposals have generated significant local interest.

Now, with regards to the ongoing condition of our roads, the extra resurfacing on A1066 (Stanley Road) was again replaced having been examined by the county highways engineer, and deemed not adequate for the task. Unfortunately, the replacement has not been successful, and they will have to come back and relay the patch. This hopefully will finally stop the noise issue, but will cause some disruption.

With reference to the drain situation by the garage on the A 1066, we had a jetting and camera team on site to look at the situation. It would appear that there are significant issues with, what can only be called – “legacy issues” as to what has happened many years ago. I think we now have a cogent plan for the works to solve the problem. But it will mean some disruption, especially when they have to dig up the pavement in front of the garage to solve the pipe problem, where it has sagged causing a restricted flow. Currently we have no planned road works for Diss/Roydon over the summer period. Of course emergency works will always occur, but again it is hoped that they will be of a minimal nature.

The bridge works by Suffolk County Council near the golf course have been completed, but there appears to be rather more congestion just across the county border as people get used to the new garage and MacDonald's outlet on the A143. We hope that the summer period should be relatively traffic disruption free! On a slightly different note, I have allocated my County Councillor's road grant to help pay for a road survey in Roydon to see if the application for a pedestrian crossing can be progressed.

I recently attended the Norfolk Waste partnership meeting which was held at the recycling plant in Costessey. It was a fascinating visit, where we were taken on a trip around the facility and watched how they deal with approximately 100k tons of recycling waste every year.

On the cleaning issue which has caused comment in Diss. Clearly we need a multi agency approach to the problem, but so far there has been a willingness on all sides to help solve the problem. To that end, I have negotiated with SNDC a long loan of a “Billy Goat” industrial

street Hoover to the town council, which will complement the larger mechanical pavement sweeper that SNDC deploys to the town every week. I am convinced that once the street Hoover is deployed the town will see an immediate improvement in the situation.

As a governor at Diss High School, I sat on meetings of the financial committee, and recently at full governor's meeting at the end of the academic year. I know you will all join me in wishing all the best for this year's A level students.

Finally, I have attended numerous meetings at both County and District Councils. On a happy note, I helped at the Citizenship Ceremony at County Hall, which is where people get their UK citizenship applications finalised, and are given their UK citizenship documentation.

K W Kiddie

NCC for Diss and Roydon