

A report for parishes from District Councillor David Ritchie

September 6th 2021

Tomorrow I will be presenting two papers to cabinet at East Suffolk Council. Whereas most of our informal meetings are still being held online, Cabinet meetings are being held in person. This meeting will be held at the Riverside offices in Lowestoft.

One paper is for the setting up of a board to oversee progress for three projects on the coast. Corton & Gunton, Pakefield, and Thorpeness have all suffered from coastal erosion in recent years. We have community groups and officer groups working in each location, but we need a formal board that can make recommendations to full council and be acceptable to funding partners such as the Environment Agency. The other paper is a development brief for Land North of Union Lane in Oulton. This is the first development brief for the smaller sites allocated in the local plan. We hope to provide such documents to give guidance for all the smaller sites. The aim is to let developers know what is expected of them avoiding misunderstandings and encouraging good quality design. This does not replace any of the formal steps in the planning process.

At full council later in the month, an update will be presented on the progress of the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project. I will not be there to present this report as I will be in Dorset on a coastal management field trip learning about their coast and their ports. These trips are always very useful – but also enjoyable. I will be glad to reconnect with colleagues from all around the country. This trip was postponed from last year – let us hope that we are starting to get back to normal.

My wife and I have not been on holiday this year, but we have managed to go away for the occasional long weekend. On Saturday we enjoyed attending a concert in Sheffield to raise money for Phase, a charity which works in rural parts of Nepal. It was a great success. My cousin Gordon conducted a small group of musicians from the Harpsichord in works from Bach, Corelli and Vivaldi. The audience were delighted to attend a concert in person. Another sign that we are returning to normal.

Best wishes

David Ritchie

One of the two District Councillors for the Bungay and Wainford Ward of East Suffolk Council.

Cabinet member for planning and coastal management at East Suffolk Council.

Chairman of the Suffolk Coast Forum

Chairman of the board for the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project.

Chairman of The Southwold Harbour Management Committee.

