

Report to Wainford parishes & Mutford from District & County Councillor Judy Cloke  
September 2021

County:

I am still trudging away, trying to get resolutions for various highways issues resolved for different villages, with limited success at the moment, but I will keep trying. We now have a meeting booked with Peter Aldous MP and Mark Nicolls the Highways Engineer in Ringsfield in October, which is a start. I am also meeting Mark and Flixton Parish Council this week.

I have been selected to join the Policy Development panel for Biodiversity, we are meeting fortnightly until 29<sup>th</sup> November to decide on the Council's Policy on Biodiversity for the next few years. Our first meeting was two weeks ago and set the boundaries, the second being today, when various Highways officers and officers with an environmental remit also attended. We discussed all topics to do with maintenance of highways, grass cutting, gritting, ditches, etc and how the work affects the environment. The big question also was about how to replace Glyphosate. It was fascinating. In two weeks we will have a site visit to Carlton Marshes nature reserve.

I have attended the first part of an information session about the Dropped Kerb policy, the second is later this week.

I have my first full County meeting, in person, this week.

District:

I think I have mentioned before I was asked to join the Governing Body of the new Castle East Special Educational Needs school in Bungay. I was approached as a District Councillor, but also because my home shares a boundary. This is not an official Council appointment if that makes sense. The buildings have not been handed over by the contractors as they haven't finished, so the Head and Char of Governors have put together a really exciting programme of events for the youngsters to enjoy off site - visits to Thetford Forest, Ringsfield Hall and all sorts of outdoor activities, to introduce the students to one another and the staff, helping them to relax into relationships in a less formal environment. I understand the refurbished buildings are looking splendid and I hope to see them before the official opening in October by David Sheepshanks. My mentor at County also happens to be the Cabinet member for Education, SEND and Skills, which has proved useful.

I have been at some of the Summer Activities events which Sam our Communities Officer has arranged in Beccles Bungay and Halesworth and they have proved very successful. He has worked very hard on the planning of these and I am hoping there will be something similar in the October half term. We have also been to several different organisations to present them with their Community Partnership grants, twelve organisations were successful in our last funding round. Our next CP meeting is on 20 September, in person at Bungay Community Centre and I am really looking forward to seeing everyone in person.

JC 6/9/21

