

District Councillor Judy Cloke Report to Parishes, Sept 2020.

I'm not entirely sure what happened to August, but I have been really busy, attending training sessions on Understanding Planning, Neighbourhood Planning, Scrutiny Best Practice, , Speed Reading (leaning I read much too fast to take anything in!) and an information session on Hidden Needs in the context of COVID 19. I have also attended two Norfolk Health Scrutiny committee meetings, at the first, the committee received presentation on how local NHS services reacted to the COVID crisis and asked for further information on the following:

- Staff vacancies and staff absence rates across the local healthcare system.
- Plans for supporting staff / staffing resilience during the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic.
- Plans for future capacity of services under Covid-safe conditions: -
  - Diagnostics capacity
  - Elective surgery capacity.
- Effects of Covid 19 on people with learning disabilities and other disabilities: -
  - Comparative death rate figures
- Plans for care of patients with diabetes during the ongoing Covid 19 outbreak (details; e.g. will the plan include dietary management?)

At the second, only last week, I learned of the difficulty in getting NHS dentistry treatment or registration, even before COVID placed so many restrictions on how the industry operates. It was quite an eye opener. All of these meetings and sessions take an inordinate amount of time and sometimes the meetings run on a bit and it can be difficult to concentrate, especially when you are staring at a screen for hours on end, I feel sometimes my eyes are quite strained. I don't dislike 'remote' meetings, but I do think some would be preferable in a live atmosphere, so you can interact with colleagues, but we have to work with what we have.

There has also been a couple of group meetings and a full Council meeting to discuss Sizewell and the result was for the Deputy Leader to continue to negotiate the best deal for East Suffolk. We all have to remember East Suffolk Council will not be the deciding authority in this case, it is a national decision. All we can do is – if it goes ahead – ensure we get the best deal we can for our community.

The Beccles, Bungay Halesworth & Villages Community Partnership will be meeting on 14 September and I am looking forward to seeing what projects may come forward for discussion.

Can I remind everyone David and I still have some Enabling Communities' funding available? Thus far this year I have sponsored some repair work at Barsham village Hall, Bungay Christmas lights and Bungay in Bloom, the latter two jointly with David. It would be good to sponsor projects in some villages, too, bearing in mind we have less in total to spend this year as every Councillor gave £1k to the COVID relief fund.

Judy Cloke 7/4/20

