

District & County Councillor report – J Cloke, July 2021

With regard to County duties, I am continuing to attend all training sessions via Zoom or Teams, whilst sitting at home is preferable to driving to Ipswich, it can be a bit disorientating- and I have to admit am getting a bit fed up with it. I have my first 'in person' meeting on Tuesday, for the Fire fighters' pension Board. The full County meeting scheduled for July has been cancelled, the agenda was quite 'light' and it was not felt to be cost effective to hire a larger facility. The agenda items have been included in the September meeting . I am continuing to tackle my inbox, which seems to have mushroomed whilst we were on holiday, the majority of emails and queries have been about Highways issues . Councillors have a specific portal to use to contact Highways and thus far I have found it effective – one or two potholes in Bungay no longer strip your tyres, anyway. Whilst I am getting used to the role, I think I will be slower than David in responding, so please bear with me.

I am meeting Richard Rout, Deputy Leader in Bungay next week, he is coming here on a 'get to know you' visit.

With regard to District, I attended a Scrutiny meeting 10 days ago and we had the second part of our review of recycling and waste. I was absolutely appalled at the statistics for contaminated waste in the north of the District (old Waveney DC) , which is around 90%. Contamination meaning glass bottles and other non recyclable rubbish in the blue bin. James Mallinder, Cabinet member for the Environment , is working on an education programme for residents., I think many were in the Lowestoft area.

Last week, I went out with Phil Love from Access Community Trust to Ilketshall St Margaret to encourage residents to use the Connected Communities facility, which is aimed at the over 65s who may have been suffering loneliness or hardship as a result of the COVID restrictions. Sadly, we had only one visitor, though he had advertised hard. We will be visiting other villages, so watch this space.

Lat Monday I had the pleasure of attending – with the Mayor - the Installation of the new Vicar of Bungay (and Mettingham, Barsham and Shipmeadow), a seemingly delightful young man, the Rev Josh Bailey , I look forward to working with him.

I have also spent some time with Sam Kenward our Communities Officer, looking at potential venues for the Summer Activities Programme sponsored by the Community Partnership in the three market towns. Speaking of Community Partnership, I am delighted to advise we received 19 applications for our latest Small Grants scheme round, this is a record. There is an opening for more parishes to get involved actively in the Partnership, it is not just about money, but communities working together and I am hoping Sam and I will manage to get to talk to you all as the year progresses. We have certainly been heartened by the number of applications, which were far higher than any other CP area, not that it is a competition.

Judy Cloke 4 July 2021

