

District Councillor Report for Bramford June 2023

The 2023 Election

As you will know after the election on the 4th of May I have remained in position as your district councillor. I am extremely grateful to the people who voted for me and will work very hard to prove that their faith was well placed. I am one of only 6 Conservatives now on the council, down from 16 and the Green party is now the administration with 24 councillors and the 5 Liberal Democrat councillors are in opposition with the Conservatives. This I don't believe will make much of a difference for Bramford, but it does mean that I will not have a direct say in the running of the administration. I have happily taken the position of Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny, this is the only chairmanship in the opposition and gives me a platform to question and assist in the decision making of the new administration. I am very pleased with this role and was voted for unanimously. I am running two training sessions to get the new committee up to speed as I have a lot of fresh faces. One of the first reports I will request is an investigation into the statutory documents that the council must have up to date or reviewed to make sure that all are in place and of a suitable quality. I will also introduce measures to promote public participation and consult the residents on what they see as issues for scrutiny all the time holding officers and decision makers accountable.

Severe weather Emergency Provision for rough sleepers

On writing this report we are in the middle of a heat wave, this means the councils Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) has been activated. SWEP requires any known rough sleepers to be offered emergency accommodation, any that do not take this offer up will be offered, water, sunscreen and food. This is of concern here as there have been homeless people in the fisons site and if anyone suspects there are homeless people anywhere in Mid Suffolk they can contact me or StreetLink (0300 500 0914) and we will send outreach workers to investigate.

Gateway14: Latest plans submitted

Plans have been submitted for a new 164,500 sq ft manufacturing and warehouse unit at Gateway 14 – the new state-of-the-art business, innovation and logistics park taking shape in Stowmarket.

Property developer Jaynic, in partnership with Gateway 14 Ltd – a wholly owned subsidiary of Mid Suffolk District Council – has submitted a reserved matters planning application for the latest addition to the Freeport East site, adjacent to Junction 50 of the A14.

Gateway 14 is set to provide up to 2.36m sq ft of development opportunities for R&D, manufacturing, and logistics businesses in Mid Suffolk and is already home to a new 1.17m sq ft distribution centre for garden and leisure retailer The Range – due for completion by the end of the year.

Minor Adaption Grants

Mid Suffolk still offer up to £7,500 in grant funding to assist people in living independently in their homes. They will offer support and advice and also help less mobile people and carers by fitting equipment in the house to help them manage their everyday lives.

The Great Big Green Week

Last week Mid Suffolk promoted the Great Big Green Week. We are already leaving areas for wildflowers, where it's safe in several of the council owned green spaces and verges. We also work with other groups to help them do the same and also plant more trees, this is part of the Biodiversity Action Plan and it will increase local plant life and biodiversity. This will improve the habitat for bees, butterflies and insects, it also reduces our carbon footprint when we don't burn fuel to cut the grass. It is not a cost cutting measure as new grass collecting equipment has been bought. We will be putting our green signs on all the plots so people know to take extra care on them.

Fisons Site

As reported on social media, there have been several cases of trespassing into the Fisons site which also included Squatters moving in and putting a notice on the gates. I made contact with the squatters who had already left. The sit continues to be a worry and in a meeting I had with Cllr Chambers we decided we would try to get a date to visit the site with the police and MSDC to discuss options, the site is apparently being marketed soon, but I have not found it on any websites as yet.

Chairmans Charity

Lastly I would like to thank Bramford Parish Council for their support for my charity this year. I raised £4,400 for Stowmarket ASD Saturday Clubs and a third of that was donated by the council from the bottle bank income. This will go such a long way to supporting these wonderful young people. It was very enjoyable and thank you all that donated.