

Appendix 3

Borough Council Report 2015/16

First I would like to say thank you to everyone who supported me this year at the Borough Council Elections and throughout the rest of this year.

I did pledge to do the best I could for my residents whether it is fighting for their causes working with various organisations or seeing if we could get monies through various funding streams like “Locality Budgets” both County and Borough and in some cases grabbing some Highways money.

I am not a Cabinet Member this term buthave been put forward as Deputy Mayor this year and hopefully Mayor in the ensuing year.

There is apparently a concern by the Leader and that he doesn't want twin hatters as Cabinet Members with Devolution on the horizon. Myself I would have thought that a strong point but!!!!

The Budget.

As usual I like to start with finance, I would have liked to have said that we have held/frozen Council Tax for a seventh year. Unfortunately cost pressures have meant we have had to make a small increase which equates to 7p a week or in other words £3.49p a year.

This is because in the 2016/17 financial year around half the Boroughs income will from fees, charges and business rates, with less than a quarter (21%) coming from Council Tax. Approximately 4% will be from the main Government Grant. This Grant has been halved in the last two years and the Government's intention is to totally cut it in the next three financial years. As a guide St Edmundsbury Band D Council Tax 2015/16 is £175.23 but now it will increase to £178.72 equating to a just under 2% increase. ☹ It was decided at the same time to charge for the use of Brown Bin service, the case being that the user pays. I would say we had been fortunate as a Borough to get away with paying for a few years as other Councils did cop a charge from the County and passed it on to their residents.

Sport and Leisure

I would say that I believe Abbeycroft are continuing to deliver an expanding service to not just St Edmundsbury resident but also to Forest Heath. They are growing and getting extra business which benefits our residents. I do use them as an example of how out sourcing can work. I would say that you might say, but I really am proud of being a Trustee. Fingers crossed we should be able to get a junior park run on the go soon, I have persuaded two other Councillors to put some Locality Budget forward to promote it.

Vision 2031

I was proud to be the Cabinet Member who saw the 2031 Vision Document though, we had a very strong “sound” plan to start with and this was backed up by stacks of records and no small amount of consultation. I really believed that with

this in place we would have a very strong case against any speculative development. I did actually state that in my 2013/14 report. The future of all Councils funding streams in future will be based on Council Tax and Business rates as I alluded to in finance section.

Waste Management

St Edmundsbury working with Forest Heath are still near the top of the recycling league and the shared routeing (logistics) are paying dividends. You are aware that there is more consultation to take place as to the siting of a new waste recycling centre which is being termed the "Hub". There is a real need to get this right because at the other end the Energy from Waste Plant is working really well with the bonus of getting money out of Norfolk Tax Payers.

Locality Grants

I believe these at Borough level are working really well and enabling localities to build and grow groups. I would say they aren't as easy to fill in or satisfy Locality Officers in comparison to sorting County Locality Grants.

List of those benefitted and amounts below:-

Realise Futures improvements to Nowton Park £700

Finally thanks again this year for all your support best for the rest Terry G C

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Suffolk County 2015/16 Local Issues Nowton

I would like to thank the Parish Council for the support they have given me over this last twelve months.

Nothing is easy or straight forward in Local Government, but I am pleased how we have been able to work together in trying to get the best for the residents of the Parish.

I believe VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs) are working really well in slowing traffic down and I am pleased how Parishes are working together with the three I bought through my Highways Budget. Was a fight to get them but funnily enough more are being bought by Police and County

Locality Budget Money :-

Nowton Village Hall heating system

£750

Rural Coffee Caravan all my areas, new vehicle

£500