

# St Edmundsbury Borough Council Report 2018

Good evening to Withersfield parish Council and residents.

I watched with interest a programme on BBC East outlining all the services provided by local councils.

We all know that St Eds collects the bins but how many of us realize that caring for homeless people is also a Borough duty? In these days of economic uncertainty there are increasing numbers of people and families being made homeless for many different reasons. During the very cold weather last winter temporary accommodation had to be found for dozens of people in our area. 40 temporary beds Bury and 70 over the West Suffolk Area. Planning for winter 2018/19 is already underway. The public gave very generously to support provision of temporary accommodation.

Standards of Public Health and Hygiene in our restaurants and shops are a responsibility of the local authority and it is reassuring to know that inspectors regularly rate local premises to keep the public safe.

£1.5million of investment has been made in leisure facilities in Haverhill.

Planning issues in the Withersfield ward have mostly been concerned with residential accommodation but closer to Haverhill there are projects ahead which will change our local area. My particular concern is the increase in traffic, which is bound to have a knock on affect on the surrounding villages.

This year my Locality Budget application from Withersfield was for funding for the new noticeboard at The Arboretum – I was delighted to see it finally in place and looking very good.

On the subject of the Haverhill Research Park planning application I was devastated by the decision by the Development Control Committee to allow the change of use for light industrial business. I do not believe that the Committee fully understood or cared about the implications for residents. No attention was paid to the

considerable traffic issues which already exist at the exit onto the A1307.

In January I met up with the new Families and Communities officer responsible for the Withersfield ward and gave her a tour of the area. She was very interested to see where Locality Funding had helped village projects in the past and impressed by the community spirit evident all around.

The most important piece of Borough news is that St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath Councils have got the go ahead and will form a single West Suffolk Council. First elections to the new council will be in May 2019. The West Suffolk Council Electoral Review was debated by St Eds councillors and the options will be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. I urge your parish Council and individual residents to have their say when the public consultation goes out later this year.

Best wishes to everyone.