District Councillor's report for Bungay & Wainford parishes November 2020

Since my last report, I have attended a training session on Discretionary Housing Payments, a fund given by DWP to local authorities in order to 'alleviate poverty and prevent homelessness '. ESC paid out £428,798 in grants last year and £610,671, this to the same number of applicants. Officers said it can be quite difficult getting people to claim. I have also attended an overview on licencing, which I found particularly interesting, as I knew nothing about it. There was also an intense session on the East Suffolk Growth and regeneration programme, when we were told there has been a 93% increase in unemployed claimants since March. There are two regeneration programmes underway – Felixstowe and Lowestoft. There is a plan to build a digital legacy across East Suffolk and free-to-use public Wi-Fi.

The Scrutiny Committee is currently reviewing the response of ESC to the pandemic, the meetings are taking place in two parts. Part one was la couple of weeks ago. The recommendations from both meetings will be presented in the fullness of time to Cabinet. We are also reviewing the Introduction of Civil Parking enforcement and surface car park charges. I have taken a particularly close interest in this on behalf of constituents and will report back in due course.

As a member of the Scrutiny committee I have also attended meetings of the Health Scrutiny panels for both Norfolk and Suffolk. Suffolk reviewed the Health Authority's forward planning for the winter months - vaccine supply, pharmacy and chiropody services and how the Health Authority will react to the next spike. Norfolk looked at how Cancer services and childhood immunisation were maintained. Many types of operation have been resumed.

An interesting fact about the Ambulance service – only 62% of attendances result in hospital referral.

There has not been a full Council meeting this last month.

I hope you all keep well as we enter our second lock down.

Judy Cloke

1 November 2020