|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Full Council Meeting 21/03/22** | At present there will be support for tenants’ electricity bills – only for those tenants who pay by direct debits, 8,500 do not pay by direct debt, this will be resolved however.  There will be a new code of conduct in place after May’s council meeting.  Out of 120 parishes in Mid Suffolk, 15 have adopted Neighbourhood Plans, 15 being prepared, nationally that’s good but we can do better.  The council passed a motion to adopt and promote the “Net Zero Toolkit” as a guide to developers.  A link to a copy:  <https://www.levittbernstein.co.uk/site/assets/files/3694/net-zero-carbon-toolkit-v2.pdf> |
| **Six Bells, Gislingham** | At a Development Committee on 23/3/2022 the application to convert the Public House to a Veterinary Surgeries and Pet Supplies was rejected.  Gislingham has successfully applied for the Six Bells to be registered as an Asset of Community Value.  Gislingham have formed an action group to develop a strategy to reopen the Six Bells as a Public house.  At present the owners are said to be appealing the decision. |
| **Peer Reviews** | A report on the Corporate Peer Challenge will be made the end of April and an action plan produced by mid June.  A member working group has been formed to respond to the Planning Peer Review.  Joint member training is needed for the new planning regulations. |
| **Housing** | £95k per week extra funds have been raised towards refurbishment of council houses as a result of raising rents. At present (05/04/2022) there have been no significant increases in arrears seen but the situation is being monitored and areas where the impact of rising costs of living identified.  A new Rent, Service Charges and Business plan is coming forward, probably for the May council Meeting. |
| **Gateway 14/Freeport Eastern** | A Business Case has now been passed by Cabinet and will be submitted. And if accepted will release £6m of government “seed” money towards the development of the Skills and Innovation Centre.  As part of Freeport East it is hoped that government support in terms of NI relief and development allowances will attract tenants to the site. Overseas Investors are being targeted.  The site overall is to be an exemplar net zero development.  Infrastructure work has commenced – the sign has been approved. |
| **MSDC Parking Strategy** | A series of meetings and consultations is planned with stakeholders to essentially produce a strategy for the enhancement of the current parking provision in order to ensure that access to our towns and villages is maintained into the future. On street parking, wear and tear to verges, access to EV charging are some of the issues.  At present Debenham has the highest occupancy rates, reaching peak occupancy Saturday mornings, at present rates Eye and Needham Market will effectively run out of parking at times by 2032.  This supports the need for more support for active travel and public transport use |
| **National Grid Consultation** | Public Consultation runs to 16th June 2022 and there is a public “event” on **Saturday 14th May**  10am-4pm at The Palgrave and district Community Centre, 10 Rose Lane, Palgrave.  Link to Interactive map: [www.nationalgrid.com/east-anglia-green](http://www.nationalgrid.com/east-anglia-green) |

MSDC Councillor Rowland Warboys

rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk Tel. 01379 783412 Mobile: 07484 186121