



**January 2024**

## Welcome to my monthly newsletter

In 2019, the conservatives were given the incredible honour to establish East Suffolk resulting out of the merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. It was the newest and largest (by population) non-metropolitan district council in the country.

The environment is one of the principle foundations of the council's first administration, led by Cllr Steve Gallant. We should not underestimate the importance of this emphasis and it is crucial those with authority must engage with all political parties and all stakeholders. The environment is not a political issue but belongs to all of us.

We declared a climate emergency and we knew we had to lead by actions not just words, to question the status quo and to make bold changes in how the council functions. The environment is about jobs, employment, houses, consumption and waste not just about the trees. Our environmental policy, which I led, evolved so it worked alongside business, not acting as a separate pressure. Development can be and should be positive if it uses fewer resources more efficiently leaving a smaller carbon footprint. One of our important legacies is the Deben School project in Felixstowe which is being built to Passive Haus standard and is exemplary in its engagement with biodiversity. And I am working hard to make sure any new projects are held to this standard. It is crucial in local government that themes and visions thread across all divisions. We must continue to make sure environmental considerations are embedded in all policy formation and council decisions.

In East Suffolk, we have proposed clean-energy projects, but these national infrastructure works can also have an impact on the environment, such as on biodiversity or a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We must look at the full picture. It's perverse to solve one aspect of the environmental conundrum while destroying something else you want to preserve and nurture. However, such projects provide much needed local employment and secondary economic benefits from the necessary services industries. So we need to see better implementation and engagement with Westminster decision makers.

District councils have an important role to play in leading by example and empowering local communities to do something no matter how small making a real and lasting difference.

Moving into 2024, I want to reassure all residents that although in opposition, I continue to push hard for environmental issues, also looking at how to effect a change in long-term behaviour, buying and wasting less or adopting more sustainable forms of travel. I will

continue to try to ensure delivery of environmental, realistic and financially prudent policy. And of course I defend, protect and champion our communities and wonderful biodiversity.

Wishing you all a very happy new year and peaceful 2024

## GRANTS AWARDED TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Through my enabling community budget I have paid for the annual Christmas lunch for meet up Mondays - 49 residents mainly elderly – meeting for a hot lunch and a cheery chat . And I part funded the upgrade of the bus shelter in Eyke



## **ACTION NOTES**

- Spoken to East Suffolk officers about road sweepers visiting my ward to assist in highway clearance
- Attend Shingle Street settlement meeting and spoke about changes in the council , the lack of community engagement and poor environmental policy  
Picked up on flooding issues on Shingle Street and have arranged for road sweepers to attend where feasible
- Popped into Meet up Monday coffee afternoon ( which took place on Thursday) and had a long discussion about local politics with a number of residents
- Spoke to officers to withdraw the Coronation planning application in Hollesley - due to poor environmental engagement and a reject by local and village residents  
My concerns have been ignored

**James Mallinder**

**Deben Ward**

**A voice for parishes and residents of the Peninsula**