

Key areas of sector-specific interests have been laid out and with this ward in mind I have put my request in to work with a new area called Energy and the Environment (or such like, yet to be confirmed), and regular planning – the northern team. My second list of choices is transport and health. Regardless I shall be taking all courses available to strengthen my information base in order to support you.

Significant meeting's coming up are on the 16th, 19th and then 24th May after which a full announcement will be made.

Changes In the Council

With change comes opportunity, and the Officers we've met so far are really glad to have a progressive ambitious cross-party team. The Chamber will look and behave differently in order to accommodate our members who attend other work, but also those using public transport. We wish to be sustainable from the outset.

The planning dept I believe is quietly having a cultural overhaul.

I have already mentioned to our group that I would like all Councillors to go to Hinkley Point to learn about the likely nuclear site at Sizewell C and to also visit Bridgwater to experience their domestic and business challenges. I wish for all Councillors who have a vote to have information.

Similarly, we have been discussing debunking the ridiculous. Some of this will involve challenging the County Council of Suffolk on behalf of residents to stop some of the ludicrous waste that currently takes place or the wild decisions that often cause personal chaos.

All in all, it's a refreshing and indeed exciting new way of looking at Counselling and for certain the net zero environment agenda will be in the sights of all councillors in their decision making.

Local Work

I wish to propose some gentle wins to start with and will be back to the Parish clerks with a formal list for Chairs and their teams to contemplate to have ready for July in order for works to take place in September. This will involve speaking to the county councillor to aid the many housekeeping challenges most Parishes wish to see put into play. Signs, potholes, broken fences - you name them.

Plus, a cup of tea or other will be arranged in the first instance for the Parishes to ALL get together in the Kelsale & Yoxford ward, including the Clerks. Its an ideal time for each village to make a verbal shop window opportunity for their village. Sharing each villages' assets so that other villages might use them in the future. At the same time we could also develop an exercise in preferred providers for the four year administration so as to make local procurement faster by sharing great contacts. Obviously, to arrange this we must not have any diary clashes. And perhaps as an exercise, we could meet at one of the Village Halls to showcase a different opportunity.

Another my aims is to get car chargers in play for the public in all of the villages. We must get ahead.

Finally for now, Parishes need to fully aware all the extras that are available from the District Council for those in their Parish. Can you identify where those requiring support live? As the Bank of England put up interest rates again to 4.5% (that's the highest in 15 years) I will make it my business to find out what support is around for our financially troubled households in terms of energy support or other – be assured I will be back on this matter.

Big Plans For Your Parish

To be effective we must be ambitious, or the 4 years will roll away and we will have achieved little. Some Parishes have some wonderful ideas for capital projects and developments they'd like to make. I also would dearly like to see them come to fruition.

In the 'Levelling Up' agenda it seems if you get the plan and application right, you can gain great and robust support – so tell me what is it you would like to do before 2027? Let's share this with the District council and make 2023/24 the planning year.

Diary Clashes & Change of Plans

I'm asking all clerks to check their web pages to ensure meeting dates are correct and also that I have a full list of meetings sent to me by email, with dates running until the end of December, please. (I will be away on leave for the greater part of August as I have a lot of family to tend to, but I will check calls etc).

You may be aware that some Parish meetings sit right on top of others and I was wondering if that is something we might look at so that my being of use to you is more efficient if you move your same night to a different week. I appreciate this may be tricky and would involve asking the County Councillor. The villages that complicate things are Sibton & Ubbeston on their Monday, Peasenhall and Huntingfield on their Wednesday, and Cratfield and Walpole on a Tuesday if they don't stay apart! The Kelsale meeting often sits on the same night as the Full council meeting – so there's a conversation to be had there too. The more I see of the Parish Council's the more I can deliver for them.

The Annual Parish Meetings are also really tricky to fit in. Perhaps it will look to locals like I'm disinterested as their District Councillor if I don't appear, but it really is hard to get around three meetings all starting at the same time! Suggestions for a solution are most welcome.

SALC

I'm currently one of the Vice Chairs of SALC and I'm a great advocate of their many services with regards to training and clerk support. I'm not sure if it will work out to remain the VC as my schedule is so demanding but I would urge you to invest in new and long term councillors as soon as possible to share the solid and broad training offered by SALC.

Finally

I'm sure we will get into the swing of things soon, but in the meantime please trust that I am contactable and that I'm coming up to speed with how East Suffolk District Council works.

Some footnotes. I'm not the best at sleeping so if you get emails at strange times – don't worry, it's my new normal. Also, I am dyslexic. Should there be a significant word missing in a piece of work forgive me and add it in. Be assured I often have my formal work and papers edited so don't fear that I will let you down in that regard.

In terms of communications, please use the District Council contact **from Monday 22 May**

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Cllr. Julia Ewart 16/5/23

