

District Councillor Report Battisford and Ringshall Ward

Barking, Battisford, Great Bricett, Offton, Ringshall, Willisham

Submitted by Councillor Daniel Pratt for July 2019

Draft Joint Local Plan

A preliminary copy of the draft Joint Local Plan (JLP) was published as part of the papers for the Council meeting on 27th June. This is the Regulation 18 version and includes maps of allocated sites and settlement boundaries. A Green Party amendment was passed to allow ward members to engage with the Planning Policy team to make some minor changes to the settlement boundary and site allocations maps by 5 July. The 10-week public consultation is open from Monday 22nd July and comments must be received by Monday 30th September.

Housing delivery test action plan

As part of the Government's housing reform a Housing Delivery Test has been introduced to monitor housing within local areas. The Council has to publish a Housing Delivery Test Action Plan because it was only meeting 81% of the target figure. Some of the recommended actions include better engagements with developers of stalled sites. This action plan was agreed by Council on 27th June.

Stowupland Neighbourhood Plan

Stowupland Neighbourhood plan held its referendum earlier in June and has now been adopted as planning policy by MSDC. This is the fourth neighbourhood plan to be adopted.

Bin collection day change

In order to optimise bin collection routes there will be some changes to bin collection days from July. The new schedule should be published on 1st July and the new routes will become operational week commencing 15th July.

New directors for CIFCO

Three new directors for MSDC (Suffolk Holdings) Ltd. The directors are now Cllrs Gerard Brewster, Rick Meyer, Peter Gould and Paul Ekpenyong. Suffolk Holdings Ltd. is the parent company of CIFCO Capital which has currently borrows from BDC and MSDC to purchase investments currently including a Volvo car showroom in Milton Keynes and retail units on Peterborough's high street.

Councillor Locality Budget

Another round of Councillor Locality Budgets has been launched. Each member has £7,350 to allocate to community projects and groups in their ward. The closing date for applications is 31st January and any community group wishing to apply for funding needs to contact the ward member. The minimum award amount is £250, and any grant awarded must meet one of the Council's strategic objectives. Qualifying activities include but are not limited to those that enhance community assets, enhance the natural environment, promote safer communities, and promote sustainable economic activity. Please feel free to ask any questions or email me at any time.

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