Annual Report and some thoughts from your District Councillor

This Report won’t contain the formal Annual Report from MSDC, the AGM will take place on the 22nd of May. On that date there will be an ordinary meeting as well. In April the ordinary MSDC meeting was cancelled, due to an oncoming byelection in the Stowmarket area.

It is now almost a year ago since I had the Honour of getting elected to represent you in the Mid Suffolk District Council. I entered this with no previous experience of this kind of undertaking so there has been a great lot for me to learn and understand, there still is I hasten to add. I live in Braiseworth since 2005, that is an area very much akin to Wilby. This makes it easy for me to relate to Wilby and surrounding areas.

There are lots of things that I do enjoy being a District Councillor, like working with the Parish Council, attending the monthly meetings and learning about the joys, successes and unresolved problems that still linger. The opportunity is there to pick up issues where I may be able to help. I am impressed by the energy, dedication and good spirit that I always encounter here.

Assisting in procuring Locality Grants is a pleasure, something concrete emerges, dedicated people are able to fulfil some of their ambitions.

Looking a back bit at the MSDC this was the year when the political majority changed. I think everyone has put in a lot of ‘elbow grease’, the Green Councillors finding their bearings formulating their ambitions and a small remaining bunch of Conservatives coming to terms and readjusting to a new reality, only six Councillors. I am very pleased to be able to tell you that the spirit is good, friendly and without acrimony. We are very able to agree to disagree when that has to be the case. The best example of this was the budget, I debated against any increase in taxes as the finances were in good order, but, as I say, no animosity at the end of the day. When it comes to the Wilby Parish there hasn’t been any contentious matters.

Below I have outlined some matters with which I get involved.

The items below is intended to give you, the reader, some insight into what I do, trying to avoid getting boring.

\* Attend Parish Council Meetings, Laxfield, Stradbroke, Brundish and Wilby.

 \*Ihave and will continue to be at various, numerous training sessions. This is particularly important to me as I had no previous experience when I was elected.

\*I contribute to ‘Local Grants Applications’, feeling sure that this will come to good use.

\*Sometimes I am able to write supporting statements for projects, like for installations of solar panels.

\*Attempting to provide a useful input in contentious local planning matters, including onsite visits, contacting Officers at the MSDC and so forth.

\*Trying to push for completion of works to be undertaken by developers.

\*Encourage and learn about the development of new ideas and enterprises in the area. Hemp based building materials is an example of this.

\*When approached by Parishioners re different personal problems I try to advise and guide to the best of my knowledge.

\*Attending the Mid Suffolk District Council meetings is an important duty.

\*Becoming a member of various Committees is both interesting and important. I take part in the Licensing Committee, the Gypsy and Travellers Committee and I am a Deputy Member of the Planning Committee. I am also a member of the Governance Group, a cross party group dealing with, for instance, proposed boundary changes.

\*I try to be a conduit between the Council and Officers, passing on bits of information that I hope can be of use.

Please do give me your ideas for this second year of mine. I am looking forward to continue in my role. My email address is: anders.linder@midsuffolk.gov.uk

My Sincere Regards,

Anders Linder