

Cllr Stephen Molyneux Report:

General:

The big headlines, St George's flag replacing the Ukrainian flag, judicial review on Local Government Reorganisation and rescinding the Climate Change Emergency Declaration and going through the budget to look at net zero spending. It's pretty much a cut and paste of every council that reform currently runs.

Most recently we debated the rescinding of the Climate Emergency Declaration and it was voted to be rescinded by the majority reform administration. Their cabinet member claims to believe in climate change and even observed that it is man-made, which prompted the question, 'if these things are understood, then how can you not view this as an emergency?' This motion was basically forging a headline to fall in line with their national message and the reality is that at best, nothing changes, at worst, the removal of the word climate emergency slowly shifts the council's focus and we'll be ill-prepared for addressing many areas of weakness we see in Suffolk.

I believe any significant change of policy will have to be evidenced and showing savings which will be difficult as everything that already exists has already been evidenced and proven to save money.

Committees:

I'm the deputy spokesperson for Development and Regulation and have now had two training sessions which have been really useful for preparing for the first committee meeting that happened this week.

Myself and my counterpart Keith Welham met with officer Ross Walker and were updated on the County Local Plan which will cover:

- what the existing plan does
- what the new one will do (and what is different under the new system)
- where we are / the timetable going forward for the new minerals and waste plan.
- the Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) which is the core document for calculating the minerals need / supply.

We had our first committee meeting which was really interesting and led to follow up research on school building standards as a new extension for a school in Thurston hadn't actually met Mid Suffolk Local Plan requirement, however, these requirements seem to be met by policy at DfE level.

Town & Parishes:

During this initial stage my time has been taken up visiting parish and town councils, taking tours and becoming familiar with their most pressing issues and concerns.

Was very happy to be given a tour of Ufford, Great Glemham, Wickham Market and Framlingham. Of course, Sizewell C is a huge concern to our communities. The works are already showing higher traffic rates passing through the villages and safety is primary concern.

I have officially supported Cllr Noble's concerns around the Nicholls Close proposal and have also started looking at the Old Bredfield Road proposal.

I have put in for a localities budget application for supporting Ufford parish council to help them restore their historic stocks outside their local church.

Visits:

I recently attended Octopus Energy's Energy Tech Summit which boasted speakers such as John Kerry (64th US Secretary of State), Boris Johnson, Jimmy Wales (found of Wikipedia) and Claire Coutino Shadow Secretary of State among many others. The event showed the strength of the renewable energy market in the UK and the woeful direction of travel we're seeing politically where misinformation and vested interests are trying to put the breaks on a shift that needs to happen much faster.

I have a meeting with the Norfolk and Suffolk Housing Partnership regarding getting better results for our social housing stock via post occupancy evaluation so when new buildings are put up and when existing buildings are retrofitted, we know how the building's performing. We need data as you can't manage what you don't measure. I've also got experts on monitoring from University of Suffolk and housing officers from District involved.