



Annual Report 2022/2023

Cllr Carol Poulter

Wickham Market and Villages Ward

East Suffolk Council

2022 was another challenging and extraordinary year but in my view, a year of great achievement and progress. The uncertainty created by the Covid pandemic, and the cost-of-living crisis brought with it numerous spontaneous examples of the good neighbourliness, friendship and kindness that exists in our Suffolk towns and villages. This coupled with the dedication, hard work and enthusiasm of our Town and Parish Councillors made a real and positive difference to the lives of people living in our communities.

The East Suffolk magazine which was recently circulated to every home in the district illustrates in detail how the Council's clear strategic priorities outlined in the 2019 East Suffolk Plan have delivered real outcomes for local people. One of the great successes of 2022/23 has been the Ease the Squeeze campaign which has funded 32 warm rooms, 13 locations offering comfort food and 330 winter warmth packs. In our own Ward of Wickham Market there are also many examples of how residents have benefited from Council funded projects, particularly cost of living Grants and Nature First Grants.

I am Chair of the Framlingham and Wickham Market Community Partnership and am very proud of all we achieved in 2022. Our meetings are comprised of representatives of the towns and villages in the Framlingham and Wickham Market Wards and represent a true partnership of people trying to do their best for our communities. The most recent example of this is funding of the development of a new Katch bus service which will serve residents in Wickham Market, Framlingham, Campsea Ashe Snape and surrounding areas. Other projects that have benefited our residents include friendship benches and funding to support the mental health and wellbeing of young people in Wickham Market.

In 2022/23 I spent my Enabling Allowance on several projects including the purchase of trees and funding towards Christmas Market in Wickham Market, river Deben water sampling in Ufford and community Wi-Fi in Marlesford.

During 2022 I again prioritised taking part in committees relating to Sizewell C. This is an issue of critical importance to me. In my opinion, the action that we take now by putting in place mitigation measures will have implications for residents that live in our beautiful part of Suffolk for many years to come.

With Best Wishes

Carol Poulter