

A report for parishes from District Councillor David Ritchie

March 10th 2023

Dear all,

As I won't be standing again in the May elections this will be my last report to you. I have already said my goodbyes and thank-yous in my February report, so I won't repeat myself. Also, in that report I said that I had £1,100 left in my Enabling Communities Budget. Bungay Town council got in first: they applied for £400 to help with three days of celebrations for the King's Coronation and £700 for new LED light fixings for future Christmas Lights in the town.

This has been a busy week for me. On Monday morning I presented six reports to the strategic planning committee. I was particularly pleased that there was a report from our Design Champion. We appointed a design champion in June last year. This demonstrates the importance of good design in East Suffolk. Having a champion is just the beginning of the process, in his report he described an audit of our planning service that he has carried out to establish the design knowledge within the service. On Monday afternoon I attended a meeting of the Working Harbour Working Group for Southwold Harbour. On Tuesday morning I attended the Planning referral Panel. I then went straight into a board meeting for coastal partnership east where I was chairman of the board for the last time. In the afternoon I attended the Southwold Harbour Infrastructure Program working group. In the evening I attended ESC Cabinet. On Wednesday evening I drove down to East Suffolk House to Chair the presentation evening for the Quality of place awards. Luckily as I drove back into The Saints the snow was not settling. On Thursday, evening (Yesterday) I went to Southwold to chair my last meeting of the Southwold Harbour management committee. At that meeting the chairman of the Strategic Advisory Group - the people who represent the harbour users - thanked me for the work that I have done over the years to establish the proper governance arrangements for the harbour. They now think they can move forward with confidence. So, that is just to let you know I am not slacking off as I come to the end of my term as a councillor. And, the meetings are of course only a part of the work of a councillor, when I have finished typing this report, I will be reading the papers for full council next week and preparing my speech on the progress of the proposed tidal barrier for Lowestoft. I have enjoyed my role as a councillor, and I will miss it.

Thank you

Best wishes,

David Ritchie

Still one of the two District Councillors for the Bungay and Wainford Ward of East Suffolk Council until May 4th 2023.