

District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward – May 2024
Serving Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Aspall, Bedingfield, Debenham, Kenton & Winston
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Out & About in the Ward:	I was hoping that the weather will change now we are moving into spring. (As I write this on 15th April it is yet to stay to dry with 50mph winds and hail). Whilst we all remain worried when it rains, especially those who homes are now only just beginning to dry out enough to return to, it is heartening to know that people are working behind the scenes to ensure we can improve things for the long term. I recently attended a meeting put on by a resident of Debenham, Tansy Cooper, of our Debenham Green Team, to provide landowners with the opportunity to find out about grants, flooding improvement practices and speak to those bodies and specialists that are involved with flooding and farming such as Professor Peter Hobson from Anglia University, Helen Dangerfield from Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust, and many more from Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Advisors from Catchment Sensitive Farming and not forgetting Glen Buckingham from the NFU who Chaired the event. If any other landowners would like information on this please do get in touch or contact Glen or Tansy directly for the potential to join a cluster along and around the river Deben. On other news I wanted to re-highlight the grants available for housing assistance modification. We have a Disabled Facility Grant and a Minor Adaption Grant which both need to be applied for. Whilst the Disability Facility Grant of up to £10,000 is means tested (unless for a disabled child) the Minor Adaption Grant is not and can be applied for within an owner occupied or privately rented property for those living with a long term health condition to help with challenges of living at home. It has been especially useful to those who are returning home from being in hospital and the award ranges from £1,000 to £7,500. If anyone would like to know more please do get in touch with our team on 0300 1234 000 asking for the Adaptations Team or by email on adaptations@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk You can always contact me directly if this is easier.
Cabinet/Council News	<u>Mid Suffolk in May</u> By the time you read this we will be into our second year since the elections. It is with joy that I feel part of the new plan agreed by full council of putting environmental and social responsibility at the heart of everything we do. We have launched the Cosy home initiative (which I would welcome your feedback on), formed new positions in cabinet, and shared roles across parties to make collaborative decisions and we champion local initiatives. We have gained money from successful bids to central government, guided and still guiding Gateway 14 into a green innovation and skills area, along with starting the health, sport and wellbeing area in Stowmarket for community to thrive. In addition we launched a community transport grant scheme to encourage more public transport in our rural areas across Mid Suffolk. All this and more we hope will begin to make a very positive impact over the years to come. Babergh and Midsuffolk Councils were lucky to have been awarded £3.8million from Government for Energy Efficient Homes at the end of March, this will be added to the £2.25million of already committed funds to improve council homes. Due to the elections on 2nd May our April Full Council meeting was cancelled and decisions moved to May. We will be having two meetings on Wednesday 22nd May, our Annual meeting and another following on after a short break.

