

District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward – March 2025
Serving Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Aspell, Beddingfield, Debenham, Kenton & Winston
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Community Information:	Local Government Restructure, Reform and Devolution Update The interim plan for Unitary councils has to be sent back to Government by 21st March 2025. Unfortunately although requested to do so, Suffolk County Council have not consulted yet with District and Borough Councils but have announced in the press they feel one Unitary for Suffolk is best. As I understand it, other councils are taking a more considered approach and gathering evidence on the number of unitary councils that would be needed under a Norfolk & Suffolk Mayor eg: we already have lots of problems with getting things fixed on the roads and that's a whole of Suffolk, Suffolk Highways issue, which seems to be clearly unmanageable for one council to do well. So I am hoping Suffolk County Council will listen to the other councils in their area before 21st March and then also consult with the public before 26th Sept. A full proposal will then be agreed and sent to Government by 26th September 2025. Mid Suffolk have agreed their £80m pound budget and capital ambition for the short years ahead. Lots of initiatives will be coming out and ongoing to ensure residents of Mid Suffolk see long term improvements to Sports, Business (especially our Food and Drink, Farm to Fork sector) and Community facilities, like local community buildings, service centres, Local Walking and Cycling along with Green resilient spaces which help with flooding and draught. For a quick overview see page 70 & 71 of the agenda pack, or get a nice cuppa and read the whole thing from p23 to p102. A Slipper Swap – Organised by the NHS, this is taking place at Debenham Sports and Leisure Community Centre between 1:30pm-4:30pm on 18th March for anyone 65 and over. Bring in your old slippers for a brand new pair plus new ferrules for any walking sticks. Other services will also be available such as social prescribing, energy advice and a community therapy team - all for free. Posters are up in our parishes. Suffolk Chamber have organised a free seminar 'Mobile Technology in Suffolk – Future and Current' at Stoke by Nayland Resort on 18th March 9am-12noon which is open to members and non members. Book via this link or go to the Suffolk Chamber website https://my.suffolkchamber.co.uk/calendar_detail.html?eid=B53610FA-84A7-4957-9143-6AEE28BA3E5F it is open to members and non members. Our Debenham Green Team are now holding themes for their regular recycling stall on the 1st Saturday of each month. Over the next three months the themes will be:- 1st March is Debenham Community Nature Reserve where locally collected seeds will be handed out free. If you miss this, let us know. 5th April will be showcasing Cycling, with information on the changes to the Highway Code, a Bike Clinic and the ability to test an E-bike 3rd May is all about Hedgehogs in the run up to Hedgehog Awareness Week
Drop In/Cabinet and Council Dates:	Mid Suffolk in February My drop in surgery will be on 10th March at Debenham Leisure Centre, if the refit of the Lounge is has been completed, any concerns tackled for you. The next full council meeting will be on 19th March, Cabinet will meet on 11th March to review things such CIL expenditure and changes, a Biodiversity and Tree Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and quarterly reports. My contact details are as above, please use them if you need me and do please keep up to date with what our council is doing by signing up/linking to our social media, just go to www.midsuffolk.gov.uk which I hope is now more user friendly.