

District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward – July 2025
Serving Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Aspall, Bedingfield, Debenham, Kenton & Winston
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Community Information:	Have your Say in Local Government Reform - https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr You may have seen this in the press or at some of our meetings, and we want to hear from you. We all know what councils fail to do, so now is the chance to reinvent how things are done. One council for where you live, but how many people should it cover -which means is there a need for one, two or three of these new Unitary Councils in Suffolk? What does local service mean to you? Focus on Farming – I was lucky enough to get a chance to listen to Tom Bradshaw, President of the NFU who emphasised the importance of diversification for farmers, and not just in crops and livestock. I researched this a bit more (latest figures from Gov.uk) and found the average income from a farm diversifying into non-agricultural business was £26,900, the single most profitable diversification was letting of buildings at £23,900. Other avenues were Farm Shops, Experience Days, Glamping, Skills based services and involving the community (such as a Community Farm on some land). If you are thinking of diversifying then contact our Economic Team about the grant we are launching. I know that it can be hard to get time to do these kind of things and we are also looking at ways to make the agricultural sector easier, so watch this space. Business resilience can take many forms and for many businesses they are always reinventing themselves and improving themselves to stay ahead of the competition so it is not just our farming sector that can benefit from our new grant scheme. We have up to £10,000 available to match 50%:50% with you when investing in your business, and if you meet our priorities this can increase to up to £15,000, giving £30,000 of investment into your business future for just £15,000. Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus and Rural Connect are here now. A new route was launched in June for Debenham (yes it has taken a long time) and I am eager to hear from people who have tried it. We aim to have the service from 7am to 7pm to cater for all types of users every Thursday to start off and I am eager to hear what will make you keen to use it regularly. The first trip is free, normally £4 a journey. The timetable can be found by putting Mid Suffolk Taxibus into Google. Don't forget we also have Rural Connect aimed to take you to places such as Diss and Framlingham. This service pilot is currently bookable over the phone and will collect door to door. Both except County Council Travel Vouchers. I will be obtaining mini leaflets and posters, hopefully for local businesses to put in their windows and to give out. Flood Update – A quick thank you to those who attended a great afternoon of information from the Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust, the Environment Agency, the Water Management Alliance and even an officer from Suffolk County Council. It was a very hot day and I was surprised at how many of us turned up! 😊
Drop In/Cabinet and Council Dates:	<u>Mid Suffolk in July</u> My drop in surgeries will be Debenham Leisure Centre on Monday 14th July from 10am-12 & The Coffee House on the High Street from 9am-10:30am on Monday 21st July. The next full council meeting will be on 24th July and the Cabinet meeting will be on 10th July. You can view them live. Do let me know if you have a question or concern you want to put to the council or cabinet. My contact details are above, please do use them and you can also keep up to date by signing up/linking to our social media, just go to www.midsuffolk.gov.uk.

