

Borough Councillors report November 2018

- 1. Western Way development.** The council has started to draw together plans for a long-term vision for Western Way. Together with several partners an outline business case has been drawn up to deliver new leisure facilities and public services on one site. It means that the current leisure centre and pool which needs millions of pounds of improvements before having to be rebuilt anyway over the coming years could be moved within the site to integrate with health services, provide extra parking and new facilities. Council will consider whether to proceed with a detailed business plan on 30th October. The report says that proposals should go ahead only if that final business case shows there is a workable highways plan and the project at least breaks even for the Council as developer.
- 2. West Suffolk council ward boundaries.** The local government boundary commission published their final report last week and these final recommendations will be laid in parliament next week and come into force at the election on 2nd May 2019. I thank Rougham Parish council for all the work they put into making an excellent submission in favour of the Rougham Ward encompassing the present Parish boundaries. Unfortunately, LGBC have taken the opposite view and all the land and properties north of the A14 from Sow Lane up to Miriam Hubbard Way have been placed in the Moreton Hall Ward. In addition, they recommended warding the parish with 4 parish councillors coming from that North Ward. It means that the Rougham Borough ward will be the second smallest with a variation of -10% in electorate numbers, representing 1,844 electors up to 2023. This means the present villages of Bradfield St George, Bradfield St Clare, Rougham and Rushbrooke, Stanningfield and Bradfield Combust will remain unchanged within the Rougham Ward with one Borough Councillor.
- 3. Business Festival.** Once again, our 10day business festival has been hugely successful. The Business awards were a great way to celebrate the achievements of many of our companies who are often trading, not just locally but on the national and international stage.
- 4. RAF Lakenheath opportunity.** National and local companies were at a packed meeting the Council hosted last week to see how they could be part of the multi-million contracts for USFA Lakenheath. Hundreds of millions of dollars is being invested in the Lakenheath area as part of the USFA programme to base the F35 Fighter and its supporting personnel in

the UK. This has opened up opportunities for UK and especially local contractors to provide services.

- 5. Looking for Change.** Wednesday will see myself and Cllr Everitt launching a new initiative supporting the Bury Drop In Centre. Called Looking for Change we are asking people to think hard about how, should they wish to, they give money to rough sleepers who ask for money in town. It will encourage people who want to help, not to give directly to those asking but to give to the Bury Drop in Centre who work together with the council to make a real change to these people's lives. Encouraging them to come to the Drop in Centre for a meal and company and begin to take those first steps towards turning their lives around and accessing the help on offer.
- 6. Hedgehogs café.** This goes from strength to strength and meets on Friday mornings in the Sports Hall from 10am to 1pm through to the start of the Christmas School holidays. A lovely way to meet new friends and keep up with old friends in the village and beyond.