

## **District Councillor's Report for Creting St Peter Parish Council. July 2017**

**Peterhouse** – Following the concerns expressed at the last Parish Council meeting, County Councillor Gary Green and I met with representatives of the Parish Council on site. I sought advice from MSDC Housing Management and appropriate action is planned, including looking at how to provide a new pedestrian access to No 14. A Housing Officer will also contact the residents of No 8 regarding vehicle and caravan parking at the property. Advice will also be given to the residents of No.7 regarding provision of a driveway and parking.

**Relocation of District Council offices** - Work is still progressing with planning the move to Endeavour House in Ipswich. The physical move is now likely to take place in September. Most staff are expected to be able to work without going into Ipswich on a daily basis, by working at home or at one of nine 'Touchdown Points' when between site visits or meetings out in the wider district.

**Customer Access Points** – As part of the strategy which includes the move of MSDC and BDC Headquarters to Ipswich, a customer access point will be set up in Ipswich Street, Stowmarket. Residents will be able to drop in to discuss any queries with staff either face to face or, for more complex queries, via a link to Endeavour House. It should not be necessary to travel to Ipswich to meet with MSDC staff – they could come to you or meet you in a local community building or the customer access point in Stowmarket. It had been suggested that formal meetings, such as Planning Committee meetings, could be held in a local village hall but this is not now likely due to the difficulty in setting up for the meeting and due to concerns about security.

**Review of Ward Boundaries** – The Boundary Commission have agreed that the number of ward councillors should be reduced to 34. Because the number of electors in each ward will need to increase, this is likely to be by increasing the geographical size of each ward. In the case of the Stowupland and Creting St Peter Ward, this could be achieved by adding another parish into the ward. I would be very sad if Stowupland and Creting St Peter are separated and added into other wards. The District Council are tasked with producing warding arrangements and then consulting residents on their preferred option. This should take place in late summer/early autumn. The new boundaries will come into effect for the 2019 District Council elections.

**New Joint Local Plan** – A huge amount of work has been completed and drafting of the Plan should be complete in time for the full Council Meeting on 20 July. If Council approve the draft Plan, public consultation will commence in August and continue into late October or early November. Appended to the Plan will be maps showing areas of land submitted by owners, developers or agents as bids for allocation as housing land. It will be very interesting to see whether or not any land in Creting has been offered and deemed suitable for further consideration. This would not be a green light for development – but comments on the suitability of any such proposal should be made during the consultation period.

**Locality Awards** – You may recall that two years ago I was able to make grants towards the cost of projects within Creting, including putting money towards work in the church hall and at the Play Area. Money is available again and bids need to be made by 30 September. I will be happy to speak to a representative of any club or organisation which has a project, new or existing, which aims to have a community benefit.

**Pre-Application Advice** – MSDC is offering advice to anyone wishing to make a planning application before they actually submit their application. This could save time and money, for instance the cost of architects or planning agent's fees for anyone planning a house extension. There will be a cost which will depend upon the scale of the development and the amount of work requested. But it is not mandatory to use this service. For minor house extensions it may not be required; for a new dwelling it would be worthwhile considering seeking advice.

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