Report for the Parish Councils from the District Councillor October 2023

1. In September the CIFCO business plan got approval. Some concerns were broached as the value of the property portfolio has now decreased. However, as long as no sale takes place no actual loss will have been inflicted. The income from rentals exceed the expenditure for interest on the loans taken out to finance the purchases of the properties. A concern for the longer perspective is the short terms of the existing loans, given the higher rates of interest at present. A review will be held to investigate how these dangers can be decreased.

2. At the MSDC meeting the proposal to introduce new, paid for roles, called ‘Political Assistants’ was debated and voted upon. The idea would be for these Assistants to aid the Councillors in fact finding, write up certain items and so forth. All three political groups would qualify for one Assistance each. If opted for full time the annual cost would be around £135000. Arguments for and against were put forth. It was suggested that in order to save money part time employment could be considered. Finally the concept was voted through, 24 votes in favour and 5 against. Yours Truly voted against.

3. A ‘State o District Report’ was discussed at the meeting. Anyone wanting a continuous update may visit the web site of ‘the Suffolk Office for Analytics’. This report can be viewed at moderngov.co.uk A lot of facts were brought to attention some a bit surprising, like an above average longevity combined with a below average level of education.

Our tree cover is below the average for the whole country, may be not a surprise given our role as one of the major 'bread baskets’.

Our own ward, Stradbroke and Laxfield, has a population of 3045.

Plenty more in this document which will serve to help in planning, in assessing points of problems and also opportunities.

4. The Joint Local Plan, first part, is now done and looks ready to be formally approved by the MSDC. The next part of this will specifically look at housing allocation.

5. In his address the Leader of the Council, Andy Mellen, mentioned about support for starting businesses, also three different grants from a prosperity fund. There is also ‘the Local Anglia Enterprise Partnership’

6. At Cabinet this month the Electric Bus project is up for discussion, comprising of £ 820 000.

Anders Linder,

District Councillor for Stradbroke, Laxfield, Wilby and Brundish