

**Report to Watton Town Council by Michael Wassell 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Recycling revolution:** launched Norfolk wide. In Breckland we have worked to promote the benefits of recycling to communities, e.g. cost reduction to council, black bins not overflowing. This has led to a reduction of contamination from 17 to 12 percent. We are targeting problem areas rather than a blanket approach.

**Community Grants:** Breckland provides match funding and smaller grants schemes across the district and these continue to be popular with the community. Grants for 2015/2016 totaled £133,000 paid in match funding. I would encourage as many organizations as possible in Watton to apply.

**CCTV:** system continues to work in all our market towns, operated by a partnership with Kings Lynn. This delivers help in prosecutions and it's deemed as an effective deterrent.

**Local Plan consultation:** The Council is in the process of producing a new Local Plan, which will replace the Core Strategy. The Local Plan sets the strategic direction and context for development in the district, governing the decisions made on planning applications and what types of development are suitable for each area. It is a key document that guides development over the next 20 years. There has been a good start to the consultation responses, a significant response rate to the consultation, and much interest in the sites and ideas. Further consultation will happen later on Sites Allocation (June July) and again pre submission (Oct/Nov) with parishes and the public.

**Neighbourhood Planning:** Council has put in resources to fund an additional officer, dedicated to working with parishes to support their development of their Neighbourhood plans. There are currently 10 Neighbourhood Plan areas formally confirmed and have plans in preparation. We are likely to see our first referendum on a Plan by the end of 2016.