

## **WATTON TOWN MEETING 2018**

### **REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR KEITH GILBERT**

I am a member of the Licensing Committee which deals with a number of licensing issues such as taxi drivers, sale of alcohol and animal breeding establishments. These can be sensitive matters concerning people's livelihoods, so training is important.

To sit on a panel looking at individual cases you must be up to date with current regulations.

To this end Breckland make sure that adequate training is provided. As well as any updates throughout the year there is an annual full day's training with an expert in the field, usually a barrister specialising in licensing matters. Because this is an expensive exercise the day is shared with neighbouring councils to spread the cost.

Having attended these sessions, I have sat on several panels during the last year. There are three members on a panel, and it is their decision whether or not to grant, or in some cases revoke, a license.

I have only been involved with this aspect of Breckland's work for the past three years and find it very interesting.

During the past year I have attended some Planning Committee meetings to speak regarding applications in Watton.

Like a lot of people, I find it very frustrating and annoying when Breckland refuse an application only for it to be approved at an appeal to the Secretary of State, as happened with the applications by Gladman on Thetford Road and Tesni on land behind Mallard Road.

One area of the town which has had a lot of my attention this last year is Lovell Gardens. I was asked to help with parking and fly tipping issues in the area, and this led to much discussion and the community coming more together to try and tackle the issues. Breckland have been helpful in this regard, and although there has been no permanent solution, at least the matters are on the table.

One matter on Lovell Gardens did get resolved. Breckland were finally persuaded, after I had asked questions at several meetings, to reinstate the street lights that had been removed without any prior warning.

I have, of course, been involved with individual and confidential matters, on behalf of constituents.

**KEITH GILBERT**