

District Councillors Report for the Town Meeting 20th April.

I have been proud to serve Watton at District level.

Breckland District council has been incredibly proactive during the pandemic. It has been an awful year for all of us. Many people suffering great hardship, through loosing jobs and lockdown after lockdown. Im pleased to say this is where Breckland has really stepped up to mark, by way of grants to the businesses to the tune of 50 million pounds. This has obviously been a lifeline to our residents and business owners.

This has also included personal hardship grants for those self-isolating.

There has also been a befriending service to help with the intense loneliness that has prevailed during the pandemic.

Breckland has also launched a 1-million-pound vulnerability scheme. This was approved just before our first lockdown when the world stood still. This scheme will be working with many local groups and will lead, enable and support, our most vulnerable residents. This is needed now more than ever.

Breckland has worked well with its town and parish councils and this is something ive always advocated, in working together, it brings our district, the things that we all want and need.

The officers at Breckland have stoically kept up the day to day running of the council without any disruption to the services that we expect and pay for, this has been done in the most challenging of times. Right from working within an office to suddenly being on remote working with the now famous catchphrase, of “you are on mute”.

Luckily, we will all be back to face-to-face meetings soon.

Personally, I have been remarkably busy this year. I am on the licensing committee at Breckland, and I am also the Chairman of the Member Development panel at Breckland which basically means, that I chair the meetings and help to facilitate training for members of Breckland, to be able, to be more resilient and proactive in their councillor roles. It is extremely rewarding and has given me lots of information that I am able to pass on to my

constituents. I am also the Watton rep for the Youth Action Group which is a branch of the Youth Advisory Board. Working with the youth and helping to bring things for them in our town is especially important to me.

I have a lot of case work, which basically means I help with local problems at District level and liase between town council and Breckland District. This keeps me terribly busy. It is gratifying when I manage to sort out an issue or suggest something that comes to fruition.

Lastly, I would like to remind residents that the "Report it" function of the Breckland website is amazingly easy to navigate. It is useful when there is anything to report, from fly tipping to noise disturbance and much more. I would urge everyone to help Breckland and the residents to keep on top of anything that needs to be heard. That way we can keep our local area the beautiful place that it is.

Please feel free to contact me on anything that I can help with.

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