

# **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT AGM 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL. TINA KIDDELL.**

**With the world slowly coming to some sort of normal, I have found myself busier than ever.**

**I have helped numerous people with various problems and linked up people with the relevant authorities. This is called case work for a district councillor and involves a lot of emails and meeting up with folk to discuss their problems.**

**I hope, soon, to hold a surgery where people can meet up with me to discuss their grips groans and wish lists for our town. It's been a long time coming, as Covid put paid to any idea I may have had in the past few years of doing a surgery. But I have always been contactable via the internet and email. I also try to get down to the market as often as I can to see people.**

**Breckland has been busy with the Future Breckland project where we are working on bringing the public's ideas to life and helping to spruce up our town. The idea behind this is to be project ready when there is funding available from central government and other streams.**

**The Market Town Initiative is also running alongside this, and I have included a break down of spends to date and an update below.**

## **Market Towns Initiative – spend to date**

**Within the current scheme, Watton is benefitting from MTI via:**

- High Street Flagpoles - £15k of MTI has been allocated and is currently being spent on the creation of a new scheme for flagpoles running along the High Street**
- Middle Street Programme - £35k of MTI has been committed to the first phases of work which are currently underway.**

**Positively, because of the MTI investment, Breckland Council has also been able to secure an additional £20k of support via the European Regional Development Fund to support the Middle Street Programme (offsetting the above contribution).**

***NB – the tree planting and future relocation of these on the High Street was not taken from MTI.***

### **Market Towns Initiative – future spend plans**

**As a result, there is effectively c. £120k of MTI unspent in Watton. This has been ringfenced in principle to support the full realisation of the Middle Street Scheme. However, this will be a Ward Member decision, expected in early summer as part of the discussions needed around how to progress Middle St. to full delivery once the technical work has confirmed the costs required.**

### **Wider linked Council investments**

- The Council's Shopfront Improvement Scheme has now fully closed, with the national funding completely spent. 7 Watton business utilised the Shop Front improvement grants**
- Starting this month Breckland is developing new plans for a 'Meanwhile in Breckland' Programme, which will help connect new entrants to the High Street / alternative users to existing vacant premises. There will need to be a few months of setup, but work has already started in Watton with some landlords and potential new tenants**

**Work is continuing with some specific landlords in Watton where there are challenges to the external look of premises, and plans to see improvements made in Springtime when external works can be completed**

**So, as you can see there is a lot of positive action to try to make where we all live a nicer place.**

**I can also say that I have worked hard this year to highlight our need for another supermarket and our plight for more infrastructure.**

**Finally, I will just remind you all that the REPORT IT function on the Breckland website is a valuable tool to quickly resolve all manner of things from fly tipping to noise pollution and lots of other things. You can also write to me on [tina.kiddell@breckland.gov.uk](mailto:tina.kiddell@breckland.gov.uk). I will get back to you with an answer.**

**TINA KIDDELL**

**BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WATTON WARD**