

Report from District Councillor Derek Davis for January 2022

Strong Communities teamwork

It has been a delight to see how my Communities team has continued to make progress and how successful it has been in delivering a number of initiatives district wide.

This includes a well-being session at Shotley village hall working with Active Suffolk, the Holbrook and Shotley Surgery GPs, Shotley Open Spaces, providing a health MOT and opening up the opportunity for more people to take gentle exercise to improve their physical and mental wealth.

We have continued with the school holiday activities, including free swims, cookery classes, craft fun and outdoor camps in Holbrook, Hadleigh and Great Cornard.

As part of my Babergh Cabinet member role I have been involved with the Suffolk Community Safety partnership for the past two years and earlier in December I was elected chairman to this important body.

In summary, the partnership which includes Suffolk police, fire and rescue, probation, housing associations, other local authorities, and health groups, work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer.

We work out how to deal with localised issues like antisocial behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and reoffending. We oversee domestic homicide reviews, annually assess local crime priorities and consult partners and the local community about how to deal with them.

Moving into 2022 my focus will be to deliver the strategy and action plan, and being inclusive to all representatives acting in the best interests of all our residents.

Full details on the [WCSP website here...](#)

Another thing my communities team has been responsible for over the past year has been a myriad of grants to help residents, groups and organisation. They have administered government money but also sought eternal funding to help projects move forward.

As there has been so much support, and so many restrictions, many groups, clubs and organisations have not called on ward councillors as much to tap into their Locality Awards, which is something I brought in as the portfolio holder two years ago.

I still have £1,500 to use in this financial year so please get in touch if you are seeking grants in the Shotley and Erwarnton villages.

This list gives you an idea of what I can use my locality awards for:

Improvements and new equipment for village halls

New play equipment and new play areas

Public realm improvements such as new planters, benches and information signage

Environmental projects such as new community woodlands and wildflower planting

New equipment and kit for sports clubs

The start-up of new community cafes, sports/recreation clubs and sessions at village halls

Support and equipment for uniformed groups such as Scouts and Guides, and youth groups such as baby & toddler groups

The new locality awards forms [can be found here](#). Paper copies of the application form will remain available.

Get in touch with me first to discuss your needs and how much I can contribute.

Derek Davis

Ganges ward councillor

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