

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT April 2014

Perhaps the most significant action by SCDC was the adoption of the Core Strategy in July 2013. I voted against. My principal reasons – I could not agree the siting of 2000 houses at Martlesham, the increase in traffic this would bring to an already busy area and the impact large numbers of visitors would have on the AONB. The principal village communities affected, Martlesham and Waldringfield have worked tirelessly in challenging SCDC and they must congratulate themselves that they have done their utmost to plead their case.

SCDC has decided to reduce the numbers of district councillors from 55 to 42. The reduction would allow for savings in the region of £100k. At present Nacton Ward is served by 2 councillors. In future it would be divided into 2 wards, K & N. K Ward to comprise of Brightwell, Foxhall, Nacton & Purdis, N Ward of Bucklesham, Falkenham, Hemley, Kirton, Levingon, Newbourne, Stratton Hall and Waldringfield (these wards are as they were when I first became a councillor in 1999 and I represented N Ward).

It is good news that the council has launched a Community Enabling Fund, giving each councillor £4k per year to spend on projects that will benefit the community and promote district objectives such as the promotion of increased access to quality leisure and cultural activities. So far I have given funding towards the renovation of a village hall; hedge coppicing, renovation of a village church. I have promised funds for repairs to a river wall and to a sea wall.

Options are being considered for a possible move from Melton Hill.

There will be no increase in council tax for 2014/15.

I am a member of the Audit and Governance Committee.

PATRICIA O'BRIEN April 2014.