

ANNUAL DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT 2012

The way SCDC does business is changing and will change further as the year progresses.

An electoral review of SCDC's ward boundaries is to take place. At present, SCDC has 34 wards and 55 councillors. It is proposed that the total number of councillors be reduced by a third. The review would take a year and include public consultation. The results of the changes would be implemented in time for the next district elections in May 2015.

The reduction in councillors relate to the changes that are taking place within the council whereby an increasing amount of business is being shared with Waveney District Council. Both District Councils share the services of Stephen Baker, Chief Executive and have a Joint Management Team. The re-structuring/re-design of business and management practices, mean that work can be done with more efficiency. Thus these changes will reduce costs and increase savings- something that all councils must do.

The Planning Depts at SCDC and Waveney have been re-structured. This means that Development Control, Enforcement & Building Control will be combined into one team; 3 Area teams will cover that work across both districts. There will be a joint Planning Policy team. When the change programme is complete it should save approx. £455k for SCDC and improve the service.

Planning has been a major concern for my ward in recent years. We are having to continually fight to retain our countryside against the imposition of large and small wind turbines and, of course, the continuing battle against the building of 2,000+ homes at Adastral Park.

I, along with over a hundred parishioners, together with parish councils, have responded to the Pre-Submission Soundness Consultation on the Core Strategy. All the representations will be considered by the Planning Inspector at an Examination in Public. I pay tribute to the steadfastness of my parishes on this issue.

Patricia O'Brien March 2012