**Cllr Ric Hardacre**

**Pinewood / Sproughton PC Report**

**May 2021**

Generally Babergh DC itself has been quiet recently due to Covid and purdah, the Green group did recently try to attach some initiatives to the budget including money to retrofit council-owned homes to better insulate them. These were all voted down.

**McDonalds application (Copdock) DC/21/01653**

The consultation window opened on 28th April and closes Wed 12th May. I will be objecting based on the fact that we definitely don’t need more traffic up here, the rubbish that will be generated, the smells that will be generated. We already have a Burger King literally a few feet from the site (and that’s quite smelly at times). The proposed layout also involves the removal of quite a few fairly well established trees including some willows. All in all, not good.

**Sprites Lane land ownership**

I’ve received an enquiry from a home owner who was recently burgled and they’ve been frustrated in their attempts to find out who owns the adjoining land, as there are several overgrown bushes and trees that facilitated the perpetrators’ access to their gardens. They’d obviously like this trimming. We’ve had a few issues with land ownership here - Zac has done some decent digging re land off Ward Road and tracked it down to the local Housing Association – so it would be great to finally get them resolved.

**J55 “improvements”**

I recently attended a stakeholder meeting regarding this with the Highways dept, they’re at a very early pre-planning stage still. The story so far is that we’re locally pushing for any improvements to be limited to adding free-flow sliproads (e.g. A12N to A14W) bypassing the traffic lights. Suffolk CC are keen to add in some bridleway improvements which is welcome. As I live close by I’ve become very familiar with the green areas around the junction during lockdown(s) and am pushing the case not to expand the footprint of the junction in any way, the last thing we need is them adding flyovers and sliproads and ploughing up the trees and meadows around Belstead Brook in the process.

**Wolsey Grange 2**

Aside from the ongoing roadworks very little else happening, we were recently informed that the planning application would be going in “soon” but it’s yet to materialise. It’s set to be an “Outline application, with all matters reserved except for access, for up to 750 dwellings; up to 3ha of primary education land; public open space; Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); landscaping; and highway improvements”. We’ve had fairly regular online meetings with them over the past couple of years and they appear to be listening to our concerns, but whether or not that listening actually results in action we will have to see. We’ve had many frustrations with WG1 that we’re keen not to repeat such as the ripping out of trees and hedgerows we were promised would be preserved (and have yet to be replanted)

**Pylons**

I haven’t been involved in this a great deal but am keeping an eye on it, the Bramford-Twinstead pylon consultation is ongoing and ultimately the decision will be up to the Secretary of State. James Cartlidge, along with a number of other local MPs have been leading the charge against this, the consultation window closes on 6th May.