

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

Cllr. Veronica Falconer

Nacton Ward

My report this year is going to be very brief. I believe I have kept you up to date with my bi-monthly District Council Reports. These are in some cases printed on your village websites and also a précis of them appear in your Village Newsletters.

Coastline goes to every household in Suffolk Coastal and keeps you up to date with all the various things we are involved with as does the recent brochure that came with your Council Tax letter, explaining more fully as to where your Council Tax goes and the value you get. The partnership of Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal has gone from strength to strength with enormous savings with every Department working together across the two Districts. Your Council tax has been frozen for this coming year and they hope to save £1.8 million in addition to the £2.2 million that we have just saved during these difficult times. Coastal defence work is being carried out and funding for various projects is still available despite the hard times we are in. Both these brochures are a good and accurate read of what currently is going on and will keep you up to date with everything that is happening.

The Nacton Ward consists of ten villages and you all keep me on my toes with site and monitoring visits, meetings, both local Parish, and then in Woodbridge, Saxmundham etc. dealing direct with constituents and their problems. Much work with the Local Development Framework consultations and preparing my responses. This document has now gone to the Inspector and we await his response later this year. Planning Applications, after a quiet spell, are now coming in fast and furiously with a large number involving the erection of wind turbines of all heights.

At the end of May last year I completed my very enjoyable, interesting and memorable year as Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council. I then went on to Chair the Quality Place Awards – a very interesting project which recognises and encourages an interest in the quality of the built and natural environment and promotes an awareness for high standards in all forms of design, including planning, architecture, sustainable development landscaping and this year Community Projects. Recently too, I Chaired the Tree Wardens Day at Stratford St Andrew where several Speakers talked on interesting and informative subjects around protecting trees, hedgerow surveys, landscape enhancement, community involvement etc., to an enthusiastic and hardworking group of volunteer Tree Wardens in the District. I was asked to be one of the Judges in the Suffolk Coastal Village of the Year Competition - we elected Boyton – a tiny village but with a great community spirit.

The area, as I have said before, is under great pressure re. development resulting in a huge loss of our lovely countryside. Not only have we the prospect of possibly 2,100 dwellings being built at Adastral Park, and 1,600 dwellings being built in Trimley but there is a possibility that 200 acres just off Innocence Lane, Kirton could become a huge container park for Felixstowe Docks with containers stacks 6 high, a railway junction and marshalling yard, an A14 underpass and lorry rail connections. The skyline too is under threat of a flurry of Wind Turbines – I fear we will not recognise this area in 20 years time. And I leave you with the thought that it is predicted that in 20 years, which is not so very far away, that the population of Great Britain will have risen by 7 million people.

I will continue to fight your causes and concerns to preserve what we love best about this area.

Cllr Veronica Falconer

14th April 2012