

District councillor's report, October 2014

1. Station quarter Stowmarket

Planning approval was granted on Aug 31 for 33 dwellings plus a café/restaurant in full, and a 55-bed hotel in outline. This area was one of the key locations identified in the Stowmarket Master Plan for its significant impact on the regeneration of the town, and in particular the connection between the station and the town centre.

2. Skills show, Trinity Park, Oct 22

The skills agenda is critical as it underpins the whole growth agenda. It is being led by SCC with support of the District Councils, and is the principle component of the Ipswich City Deal. The skills show is a joint partnership event that is expected to attract 400 children and young adults aged 11-25, plus parents, guardians, teachers, careers advisors, businesses, etc. throughout the day. 12 sector areas are to be covered, including food, culture and tourism, advanced manufacturing, telecoms, creative industries, health and social care, services, etc. with a range of stands. Mid Suffolk plans to be involved with its own stand, promoting and collaborating with other authorities to showcase opportunities within local authorities.

3. Grant schemes

Contributions from S106 monies received from the wind turbines in Eye, have enabled Eye Town Council to make its street lighting significantly more energy efficient.

Mid Suffolk has provided Thornham Walks with £2,000 of funding to instal "waterless composting toilets", and thanks to this initial funding they were able to secure the full £28,000 needed to develop the project.

4. Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre

The Stowmarket Leisure Centre was again nominated amongst the five finalists for the award of Leisure Centre of the Year 2014 (having won the award in the past), with the result due at the end of September

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