BURY ST EDMUNDS TOWN COUNCIL

West Suffolk Council

Councillor Paul Hopfensperger

Report to Howard Estate Association of Residents and Tenants (H.E.A.R.T.) Monday April 15, 2019

1. First report as one of your West Suffolk Councillors

As discussed at last month's meeting, on April 1st 2019 the new **West Suffolk Council** took the place of the former **St Edmundsbury Borough Council** and **Forest Heath District Council**. As you will all know by now, elections for this new council and also the **Bury St Edmunds Town Council** are currently in full swing and hopefully you will have all received my election leaflet. I am the only candidate who is currently a member of both councils and who is standing for re-election to both councils. As I have said before, it is important to enable a Councillor to get things done that they serve on all tiers of local Government, Town, District and County. 6 votes more 2 years ago at the Suffolk County Council elections (I lost by 5) and things could have been different. It goes to show that ***EVERY vote counts***.

If you have not received my leaflet, I have copied it into this report, and also I have some copies available here tonight should you want one.

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Just to re-cap from last month, on Monday May 6th, the new **West Suffolk Council** will consist of 64 councillors, that's 8 less than before, but the wards will be larger. This will in fact save the new council and council tax payer money compared to how it was previously.

So St Olaves Ward (Howard Estate, Marham Park and a small part of the Mildenhall Road Estate) will be represented by:

- **2** x **Bury St Edmunds Town Councillors** – Decided at May 2nd Election.
- **2** x **West Suffolk Councillors** – Decided at May 2nd Election.
- **2** x **Suffolk County Councillors** - Current **Tower Division** Councillors – NOT Marham Park.
- **1** x **Suffolk County Councillor** - JUST Marham Park, Current **Thingoe North Division** Councillor, Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger, Suffolk County Council Cabinet member for Adult Care.

Full information on the elections can be found by visiting the link below:-

https://www.paulhopfensperger.com/elections

2. New Community Centre and Carousel Centre & Housing

Not much more to update since last month, except that the new centre along with the associated 70+ houses in St Olaves Road, are still on target for commencing in the autumn of this year – 2019. There will be 30% affordable housing with 20% social housing as part of the scheme.

The project will proceed in two parts, ensuring that the existing community centre and children's centre remains in place while the new one is built. We are all very excited about this project, and like many people on St Olaves Ward we are looking forward to it eagerly.

3. New Post Office and Vegan Café

Ernie Broom and Cllr Paul Hopfensperger, centre, with residents outside St Olaves Precinct Post Office

Allison's EATERY
Vegan/Vegetarian/GlutenFree
Plant Based/DairyFree

I can confirm that Allison of **Allison's Eatery** has now taken delivery of the keys and work is underway for the much-anticipated **Vegan Café and Post Office** in St Olaves Precinct. As we all are, Allison is very excited about this project, and as your only Bury St Edmunds Town *and*

West Suffolk Councillor, I am delighted for the entire estate and surrounding area that we will soon have not only a brand new eating establishment where people can meet up every day, but the post office will be back! Everyone's hard work and campaigning has paid off.

4. I hope to be back again next month…

Lastly, I just wanted to say, that depending on the result of the election on May 2nd, I may or may not be back to see you at next month's H.E.A.R.T. meeting. That's the brutality of an election. Just 1 vote can be the difference between winning and losing.

I hope that I have done enough over the past 14 years to be re-elected to serve you, but if not, so be it. It's been an honour and a pleasure, and my very best wishes go out to everyone who I have had the pleasure to serve.

Paul J. Hopfensperger

_____ **15/04/2019**

Cllr. Paul Hopfensperger

Independent Councillor for St Olaves Ward
Bury St Edmunds Town Council and **West Suffolk Council**