

## **Councillor Paul Hopfensperger**

### **Report to Howard Estate Association of Residents and Tenants (H.E.A.R.T.)** **Monday December 17, 2018**

#### **1. Howard Estate Children's Christmas Party – Saturday December 8, 2018**



Following on from the Children's Halloween Party in October, Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup> saw a very successful Children's Christmas Party held in the Newbury Community Centre. A packed house saw visits from none other than Santa, and Olaf and Elsa from the Disney Film "Frozen".

A big thanks has to go to Barbara Bannister, Jo and Darren Mitchell, Val Cownley, Photographer - Joseph Francis-Warby (who took photo on the right) and of course Jade Woolnough, who first came to me with the idea and put in an immense amount of work to ensure it went ahead. It was a truly fabulous day for the children, and I'm sure we will be doing it again next year!

#### **2. Colin and Jo White Fundraising**



**Paul Hopfensperger** MifHI MCMA CertLegalStud(Open) • Councillor for St Olaves Ward • Bury St Edmunds •  
Risbygate House • 17 Risbygate Street • Bury St Edmunds • Suffolk • IP33 3AA •  
**Tel:** 07887 711333  
**Email:** [mail@paulhopfensperger.com](mailto:mail@paulhopfensperger.com)  
**Website:** [www.paulhopfensperger.com](http://www.paulhopfensperger.com)

Today I gave **£3,032.30p** (after Crowdfunding costs deductions) from the crowdfunding page for the former caretaker of Howard Primary School, Colin White and his wife Jo. As you know, Colin was left tragically paralysed after falling down the stairs last Christmas. There will be a presentation on Wednesday at Howard Primary School, where I will present them with a large cheque which signifies all of the donations that not only this community, but the people of Bury St Edmunds have given. Together with the donation from the **H.E.A.R.T. Bingo** held recently which raised £265.00p, the total given will be £3,297.30p which is a fabulous amount towards the £5,000.00 needed for the new conservatory for Colin, which is currently being built.

### 3. West Suffolk Shadow Council & Bury St Edmunds Town Council – Mayoralty

At the last meeting I mentioned that we would have a meeting to discuss “Civic Leadership Review” at the West Suffolk Shadow Council meeting the next day.

As I have reported before, On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, **St Edmundsbury Borough Council** and **Forest Heath District Council** will cease to exist and will be replaced by **West Suffolk Council**. The main crux of the debate in a nutshell, was whether the new council should apply for Borough Status and whether it should or shouldn't have a Mayor, and whether it should be better for Bury St Edmunds Town Council to take on the Mayoralty. At the meeting, a successful amendment was put forward by Councillor Peter Stevens which delayed making a decision until the new Councillors are elected in May 2019. I found this very irritating as it now means that we do not know what will happen until deep into next year.

So, with that in mind the Bury St Edmunds Town Council discussed last Wednesday whether to create a “Mayor of Bury St Edmunds” so that the town will still have a Mayor on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. We have put £15,000 in the budget for it, but there are many Councillors for and many against, I would say about 50/50 at present.

So it will be discussed again in January with more known costings following discussions between Bury St Edmunds Town Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Watch this space is all I can say.

### 4. Second Phase of the ‘Howard Memorial Orchard’ Complete



On Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup> on a wet and cold morning, the fabulous Greener Growth team and local residents gathered to install the second phase of the ‘Howard Memorial Orchard’. It was a fabulous turnout, and I was pleased to get a local resident along who had seen it on my Facebook Group – “**We Really Love Bury St Edmunds!**”. This is a fabulous community event which we will see flourish into a beautiful orchard in the coming years.

### 5. Working with the US Air force to create a “Forest Schools” Project

As you know, part of the Oakes Road Nature Trail project will involve looking at building a classroom for the children of the local primary schools to have what is known as “Forest Schools” workshops in the woods.

I am in preliminary discussions with the United States Airforce, Lakenheath who would like to build a classroom for us FREE OF CHARGE using their manpower and materials. I will keep you updated on this exciting project which I am very excited about, as it will benefit the children immensely.

**6. St Edmundsbury Borough Council appoints Barnes Construction as pre-construction contractors for £8.4m former Post Office development**

The project to develop the former Post Office in Bury St Edmunds has taken a step forward. Pre-construction contractors have now been appointed, with St Edmundsbury Borough Council expecting to submit a planning application in February. The project will provide the much requested and widely anticipated widened link between The Arc and The Town Centre, along with town centre apartments.

**7. Upbeat get prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**

I was delighted to be invited to the ceremony in the Newbury Community Centre on November 21<sup>st</sup> to see the **Upbeat Heart Support Group** awarded with the **Queens Award for Voluntary Service** by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Clare, Countess of Euston. The ceremony was also attended by The Mayor of St Edmundsbury, Cllr Margaret Marks, Chairman of The Bury St Edmunds Town Council, Cllr Andrew Speed, and The Chairman of Suffolk Council, Cllr. Michael Ladd.



Following the meeting, I was asked to help finance a frame for the certificate, signed by Her Majesty The Queen, which I understand will hang in the Newbury Community Centre. Upbeat asked for £50. I donated my last £20 from my Bury St Edmunds Town Council Locality Budget, and Cllr. Tom Murray kindly donated the £30 balance from his when I asked him.

Finally, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new year.

*Paul J. Hopfensperger*

17/12/2018

---

**Cllr. Paul Hopfensperger**

Independent Councillor for St Olaves Ward

St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Bury St Edmunds Town Council and West Suffolk Shadow Council