

REPORT TO HADLEIGH Town Council

November 14 2017

Over the course of the last month I attended meetings of the Environment Committee, Altogether group, Cabinet Meetings, opening of the new customer access point in Sudbury.

Cllrs. Byrne, Grandon, Jenkins and I attended presentation on the possible development of the Corks Lane site. Three possible alternatives were presented, these are to be scrutinised and refined, and in the New Year the final plans will be presented to the public. It is anticipated that plans will be ready to go to the planning committee by March of next year.

Regarding the proposed merger of the two councils the on-line survey address is <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/onecouncil>. This will be available shortly. The cost of redundancies at the Corks lane site amounted to £20k.

My work with Environment Committee is both challenging and informative. The Government guidelines are to reduce pollution, reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. To protect parkland, wildlife and marine biodiversity and to enforce regulations that keeps our water and air clean. At next month's Environment meeting we will discuss the possibility of the introduction of community fridges, where retailers could make excess and out of date food available free of charge. Food waste going to landfill is abhorrent and must be prevented.

A recent article in the national press showed some signs for optimism about the environment.

- Methane, laboratory grown plant based "meat" products to replace traditional products.
- Renewable energy, huge strides are being made. Locally the pipeline from the wind farms off the coast is under construction north of the river Deben.
- Coal, solar and wind energy are now cheaper than coal. Unfortunately in China and the USA the current use is increasing.
- Electric cars, global sales have quadrupled in the last year; 80% of new cars will be electric by 2030. Locally if parking charges are introduced I will ask for an amnesty for electric vehicles for a limited period of time.
- Batteries, Prices of lithium batteries have decreased by 75% over the last six years; further falls of 50 – 65% are anticipated by 2030. The introduction of a smart grid is expected to save bill payers £8 billion per annum by 2030, together with a massive increase in reduction in carbo emissions. Long distance electricity connectors are being built for energy storage.

- Efficiency, improved efficiency in our homes, transport and industry has increased by 20% since 2000. In the coming 10 -15 years it is expected that European energy use could reduce by a further 40%.
- Forests, globally annual losses have doubled since 2000. Over the last twenty years tree planting in China, India and South Korea has removed 12bn tonnes of CO2 from the atmosphere; this equates to the EU's entire annual emissions. Replanting forests is crucial.

In the light of these tremendous developments, and radical changes, we need the political, economic commitment and understanding to ensure our future.

Cllr. Christina Campbell