



## **District Council Report for Stuston Parish Meeting**

**February 2019**

By District Councillor David Burn

### **Tree for Life**

Offering an orchard tree to commemorate the birth or adoption of a child in the district during 2018 proved to be very popular. This is the first year it has been tried but nearly 170 applications were processed. These represent around 21% of all the births in the year. Parents collected their trees (pear, apple, plum, fig or flowering cherry) and instruction leaflets on two successive Saturdays in January from a tree nursery in Wattisfield. The scheme is likely to be run again this year. To read about it and access the application form just type 'tree for life' into the search bar on the home page of the council's website.

### **Emerging Joint Local Plan**

The hope was that the submission draft of the Plan would be presented to Council in January for approval prior to putting it out for a six-week technical consultation (a wide range of invited consultees). For a number of reasons the presentation to Council has been deferred until June, when the new administration will be in place.

### **PCSOs in the district**

The first of two Police Community Support Officers funded by MSDC is now operating in the district and the second has been recruited. They will be involved in a range of activities including parking related matters, speeding and low level anti-social behaviour, and will also be available to drop in on local businesses and community organisations. To report issues in and around Yaxley that are within the remit of the PCOs, please contact your district councillor.

### **Babergh/Mid Suffolk Councils shortlisted for prestigious RTPi Award**

The Councils' Exacom Database, which went live in December, has been shortlisted for the awards, run by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPi), in the 'Excellence in Tech Within Planning Practice' category. The database, which gives web-users access to data on Developer Contributions (Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 contributions) for development in Babergh and Mid Suffolk going back to 1974, is the first of its kind in the country. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils were recently designated pilot authorities by the software's developer. To access the database go to 'Planning' then 'CIL & s106' from the home page on the Council's website.

*Cllr David Burn*

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