**2019 Annual Parish Report - Barnham**

**Parish Issues**

During the year I have continued supporting the Parish Council with the issue of the Land North of Linden Bungalow, Station Road (DC/17/1112/FUL) that has been refused by the planning officer and has been the subject of legal action. In addition, I have raised three enquiries with the West Suffolk Enforcement team, which require investigation and resolution i.e. Oil NRG, Indigo and the new storage facility.

I was pleased to be able to provide a grant of £500 towards the resurfacing of the village hall carpark.

**West Suffolk District Council**

Following the conclusion of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England’s review of the ward structure, on the 2nd May 2019, voting took place to elect ward members to the West Suffolk Council, which is now served by 64 councillors (a reduction of 8) across 43 wards. In West Suffolk there are 91 town/parish councils and parish meetings supporting a population of around 180,000 people of which 40.8% live in villages and outlying areas, 23.4% in Bury St Edmunds, 15.5% in Haverhill, 9.6% in Newmarket, 5.5% in Brandon and 5.2% in Mildenhall.

The West Suffolk Council entirely replaced Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury and is the 7th largest non-metropolitan district council in the country, which will enable us to:

* Deliver services that are vital for our communities and businesses while at the same time driving forward an ambitious vision of growth, jobs and economic prosperity for our unique area
* Future-proof for the next decade and beyond - to ensure a firm financial base and stability to meet the challenges faced by our communities such as improving health, the need for more homes and reduced national funding
* Consolidate the savings and efficiencies we have made and make even more that can be reinvested to work with and benefit our communities.

The council is the right size to deliver local and tailored solutions but also have a large and unified voice to champion the aspirations of our communities nationally and to attract new businesses.

**Cllr Andrew Smith**

**Ward Member for Bardwell**

**West Suffolk District Council**