

Louise Gooch
WDC Councillor for Pakefield (May 2015 onwards)
Report for the Lowestoft Town Council Meeting: Tuesday August 22nd
2017

Council meetings & briefings; and training & development:

July

Mon. 10th: Waveney Local Plan (First Draft) presentation by Desi Reed, Planning Policy and Delivery Manager at Riverside

Weds. 19th: St Peter's Court presentation to residents and Cllrs

Weds. 19th: WDC full council meeting

Question from Cllr Louise Gooch to Cllr S Ardley, Cabinet member for Merger and Communities:

It was reported in the *Lowestoft Journal* of Friday June 2nd, that "Slavery is on our doorstep, we need to do something about it". How is WDC working with other councils and agencies to prevent human exploitation in this way?

Supplementary: what assurances can be given that we have the resources to monitor this?

The questions were answered by Deputy, Cllr Alison Cackett, who detailed WDC scrutiny of employment practices within the council; she said that she would undertake further research on wider monitoring

August

Mon. 7th: The Member Programme Board Meeting (WDC and SCDC Merger plan) – attended as observer but permitted to take part and ask questions

Campaigning:

August

Weds. 9th: Lowestoft Coalition Against the Cuts meeting to plan the local activities as part of the national campaign event "Scrap the Cap" scheduled for Saturday September 23rd

Case-work:

July

Mon. 31st: Letter from Damian Hinds MP Minister for Employment sent to Peter Aldous MP in direct response to communication I had sent to Peter re. Universal Credit and the experiences of one of my ward residents. Damian Hinds MP acknowledges my comments and makes some response regarding the transition period, the national roll out in Sept. 2018, the opportunities for claimants to work flexibly, the timing of benefits payments, and the Real Time Information system to automatically adjust Universal Credit awards. Some aspects of transparency and access to records that I pointed out were not addressed. A copy of the letter was sent by Peter Aldous MP to our resident.

Stradbroke Rd/Flora Rd fly-tipping, black bin abuse and SORN car parked on unadopted road: these issues were raised with me whilst out campaigning for the General Election.

Referred the matter of litter and bins to Waveney Norse – rectified; worked with (sadly) former SCC Cllr Peter Byatt to find a way forward re. the location of the vehicle; this case has now transferred to newly SCC Cllr Craig Rivett; met with residents on June 25th to provide an update

Blackheath Rd Caravan Park: liaising with residents' group and WDC Planning Dept. to establish a way forward for residents in terms of dealing with uncooperative and obstructive behaviour; and seeking assistance to refer the historic case to the Planning Committee; met with residents and Planning Development Manager Phillip Rowson on Weds. July 19th to discuss a way forward in relation to various matters pertaining to the adherence to Planning conditions

Arbour Lane: contacted by residents of Beach Farm Caravan Site in relation to the lack of a green bin for their garden waste; met with residents and ascertained other problems; have been liaising with: WDC Cllr Steve Ardley re. the management of the caravan site and their provision of suitable bins; Lowestoft Town Cllr Alan Green re. the provision of bins for dog waste; SCC Cllr Craig Rivett and Peter Aldous M.P. regarding the 'unadopted road' and its maintenance and liability for and link with the tourist Coastal Path

August

Fri. 11th: met with Craig Rivett, Suffolk County Cllr for the Pakefield Division, which includes Carlton Colville, to tour the Division for site visits in case-work above to ascertain plans of action for each.

Community work and support at social events:

July

Thurs. 13th: Pakefield High School 'Creatifest' event, support as Chairperson of the Pakefield High School Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA)

Tues. 18th: PTFA meeting to organize Pakefield High School Christmas Fayre

Sat. 22nd: Lowestoft Festival attendance

Thurs. 27th: Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum meeting at 9:15 p.m. at Kirkley Centre (presentation on pioneering project to have more integrated communication between agencies and a 'one door' point of communication)

August

Thurs. 3rd: The Seagull Theatre, Pakefield; 35th anniversary of the Seagull Theatre Group celebration opening night of *Beneath the Waves* telling the story of the impact locally of the 1953 east coast floods

Sun. 6th: Charity fundraiser at the Kirkley and Pakefield Football Club, Walmer Road, supporting the family of Hannah Cofill*, former pupil of Pakefield High School, in the family's quest to have pioneering therapy for Hannah in Berlin, Germany in an attempt to restore some sight following treatment for brain tumours

Tues. 8th: Pakefield Poors Land Charity – attended as WDC Cllr; however, was in post as nomination from the former Lowestoft Charter Trustees. During the meeting, I explained about the establishment of Lowestoft Town Council and the fact that there are now three LTC Cllrs for Pakefield (Peter Byatt, Tess Gandy and Alan Green) any of whom could possibly replace me if desired. Apparently, the Charity's constitution requests one Cllr from Lowestoft

Borough Council. Clearly, this too is now obsolete. The Charity and I are happy to continue as is; however, should a LTC Cllr for Pakefield wish to replace me, then that would be acceptable, too.

Four small bequests were made; I nominated the Hannah Coffill* fund and successfully secured a kind donation of £100, the news of which I conveyed to the family on Weds. 9th.

Matters of specific interest to Lowestoft Town Council

July

Waveney Labour Group meeting July 17th and then Waveney District Council full council meeting July 19th

Item 11

Review of representation on the Planning Committee, the Local Plan Working Group and to appoint a Heritage Champion

I stated that following a visit to the former Blundeston Prison, I had sought opportunities for the recovery of artefacts of local and national heritage interest with a view to these then being offered to the museums. Liaising with Badger Builders (the developers), the demolition contractors and Cllr Ladd had made it apparent that WDC administration had been negligent in seeking such opportunities. There is now nothing left to be recovered; this confirmed my belief that Cllr Ladd was not best placed to fulfil this position at least as a sole representative. WLG went on to propose SCC, WDC and LTC Cllr Keith Patience as an alternative or deputy; this was withdrawn on the night

August

[Please see note above regarding representation on the Pakefield Poors Land Charity]