Beccy Hopfenspeger – AGM Report

Firstly, may I thank you for your co-operation and support as I've been travelling around the division understanding the issues and challenges you are dealing with as a parish council its has been very helpful in forming my plans going forward. I am delighted and honoured to be elected as Suffolk County Councillor for Barrow and Thingoe for the next two years and I look forward to working with you all supporting the residents.

Ordinarily my AGM reports would be a summary of issues I've been dealing with and what has been happening within the County Council, but as I've only been elected for five days it will be somewhat shorter.

Elections

You will have already read/seen that Suffolk County Council is now run by a Reform administration the makeup of the council is as follows:-

- Reform UK — 41 seats
- Green Party — 13 seats
- Conservative — 9 seats
- Labour & Co-operative — 3 seats
- Liberal Democrats — 2 seats
- Independents — 2 seats

We will have our AGM on 21st May where the leader, deputy leader and the cabinet of the council will be announced.

LGR

One of the large jobs that the new administration will have to get to grips with is the formation of the three unitary councils that will make up Suffolk in 2028, this will mean transition arrangements of services from one council to three including the disaggregation of county wide services such adult and children's social care and highways. They will also need to look at the parish/town council role in the unitary set up including what powers maybe devolved to parishes in the new structure and also what to do with Ipswich with regards to its structure as at the moment there is no town council in place. There were plans for cross party worky parties to deal with this but as yet I am unsure as to what the plans of the administration are.

Elections for the new unitaries who will act in a shadow form for a year will take place in May 2027 providing the timetable is kept to.

Locality Budgets

I am sure you are already aware but just to remind you that I have £6,000 in my locality budget which I can contribute to community projects and £6,666 for highway related items which is usually front loaded at the start of the term but I am awaiting confirmation of this.

Residents Conversations

As you can imagine I've had several conversations with residents over the period of the last few weeks and the common theme of those conversations is road safety/speeding, state of the roads and over development.

I look forward to working with you.