

## **Report to the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting, Pettistree**

### **County Councillor Alexander Nicoll Member for Wickham Division**

I have now served just over a year as the County Councillor for Wickham Division which covers the parishes of Pettistree, Wickham Market, Campsea Ashe, Rendlesham, Ufford and Melton. I have worked to forge good links with all the parish councils and many organisations and individuals who work in our community and care about the people and environment of this special part of Suffolk.

I look forward to supporting the village events to commemorate the centenary of the ending of WW1. I have already responded positively to a request from the Parish Council for some financial support for the village's planned Battles Over event. Too many wars and conflicts have followed that historic event in November 1918 but it is right that we remember the ending of one of the worst of human conflicts and in remembering give our thanks to all those who currently serve in war zones, whether in military, auxiliary or civilian roles, and who strive to bring an end to killing and chaos which accompanies all human conflict.

Turning to our politics and communities locally the past twelve months have seen expected and unexpected events and, overall, the slow-moving wheels of Brexit are causing uncertainty especially for businesses who survive on the back of importing/exporting. Within the past couple of weeks, the leadership of Suffolk County Council changed and at the Annual Council Meeting on 24 May Councillor Matthew Hicks will take up the reins as Leader of SCC and Councillor Mary Evans will be Deputy Leader. We wait to see which new faces will appear around the Council's Cabinet table and whether other changes will be announced.

It is all change beyond the political tier at SCC as a new Chief Executive has just taken up post. Nicola Beach joins as Chief Executive having served in a variety of senior local government roles, most recently at Essex County Council. Ms Beach lives in Ipswich and has lengthy previous experience in the East of England having served at South Norfolk Council and as Chief Executive of Braintree District Council before moving to Essex County Council. I am told she is a highways expert and I am sure she will help Suffolk County Council as we seek to deliver improvements in our highways service albeit against the backdrop of insufficient financial resources, generally, in this area of local government service delivery.

Finally, in terms of issues which are likely to impact on the village, in ways not easy to predict, I mention Sizewell C again. I say 'again' because anyone reading the last issue of Pettistree People will have seen my article about what would, if approved, become one of the largest construction projects in the UK and easily the largest in Suffolk. Stage 3 consultations are likely to kick off early next year and I will work

hard with everyone in the village and the Parish Council to ensure all viewpoints are heard and everyone's question answered. Meantime, as the Parish Council know, I will include Sizewell C news, as I get it, in my regular reports at Parish Council meetings.

Although I regret that a long-time diary clash means that I cannot deliver this brief report in person and, importantly, field questions – which I like to do – I hope that, either via the Parish Council or directly, everyone living in Pettistree will feel able to contact me as County Councillor if I can help in any way. In terms of highlighting my accessibility I am grateful to Jeff and everyone on the Parish Council for posting my contact details on the Pettistree Parish Noticeboard.