

Councillors Report 28 August 2018

For Radway Parish Council meeting 13th September 2018

The main Committee that I am involved with is the Task and Finishing group. This body is a subcommittee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC). The Council has employed, on a short-term basis, Justin Long, who has experience in dealing with the Scrutiny of both outside and internal departments and organisations.

OSC has not in the past received regular performance reports from other departments within SDC. These should be given quarterly to the committee with attendance of Chief Officer and Performance officer to give their reports. Thus, the OSC can monitor performance and provide an independent challenge on any area of concern.

He has recommended that OSC should Scrutinise the various internal department of the Council and review the Cabinet work program. The committee should be allowed to question and hold officers to account.

Further to last month initial report on the Task and Finishing group, we reviewed the various charitable organisations that receive funding from SDC. The council provide £200,000 annually of which Citizens Advice receives £46,000, VASA (Community and Voluntary Action) £50,000, UBUS £95,000 and Act on Energy £13,000.

Both VASA and UBUS can help with local transport. Information is available from their Websites.

Act on Energy, Delivery of energy advice and support to provide residents with:

1. Warmer Homes
2. Affordable energy
3. Knowledge to make ongoing energy decisions
4. Funding for physical interventions

Provision of support to Stratford District Council to deliver:

1. Obligations under the Home Energy Conservation Act (statutory duty)
2. Assist the council with working toward National Fuel Poverty Strategy
3. Clean Growth Strategy – key document for low carbon economy and governments strategy for delivery of carbon budgets.

Advice is available from Rachel Jones CEO, Actonenergy.org.uk

The T & F Group is working the problems around rural exclusion, this underline the need to improve transport and the provision of Social Housing. However, the District must stop the selling off of properties in the villages. It is hoped that the new Housing Company which is being created by SDC will help with this problem.

The SDC carries regular training meeting ranging from planning to highways. Next Fridays 3 tier meeting at the Race Course is on Highway with a view towards Parking. Details for booking a place and future events is on the WALC website.