

Good Evening Ladies and gentlemen

I asked at the last Annual Meeting that you all watch out for the new Saxmundham Skate Park in collaboration with SAVVY as a joint project. You will by now be aware that this project has been completed to the benefit of all.

The project however hasn't been without hurdles and hiccoughs; in spite of this overall the scheme will be a massive asset to the next generation of the town.

There are those that have reservations, fortunately they are few, and will diminish in time as the facility beds in, becomes self policing and an advantage to children and parents alike, knowing that there is another structured play space available in Saxmundham.

An extension to the Rendham Road footpath in collaboration with Suffolk Highways has also been completed, to the advantage of all, with plans in the future for a controlled crossing on Rendham Road linking Brook Farm with the Memorial Field, and the new estate with both the Town and Memorial Field.

It is also worth remembering the extreme value of the Youth Club, which continues to go from strength to strength, funded by the TC as a huge asset to the town.

Modernisation of the Market Hall structures are continuing, requiring a great deal of work re-organising the Trust, feasibility of alteration and extension of use. I would personally like to thank the friends of the Market Hall that are not Councillors for their hard work and tenacity over what is proving to be the long haul; I am sure we will jointly succeed.

And of course the big essential project: The production of a Neighbourhood Plan, important for any expanding Town/Parish to take advantage of the Localism Bill, moving from Section 106 agreements, to the Community Infrastructure Levy, coupled with the co-ordination of all our local services and amenities, particularly Planning, Education, Health, employment and Transport.

A search for the magical ingredient to make Saxmundham a fully functioning community has started. We have engaged a consultant, along with SCDC to help and guide us through the process over the next 3 years, but keeping firmly in mind that it is your Neighbourhood Plan, full of your ideas. There will be very close consultation all the way, from beginning to end.

Just a footnote to clarify that nothing can be achieved without realistic cost; it is vitally important to keep Saxmundham moving ahead without stagnation for us to ensure we have a balanced budget that keeps in line with inflation and

affordability. To these ends I make no apologies for a well balanced rising precept over the next few years for the benefit of all Saxmundham, whilst repeating my annual phrase which has to date held good.

‘All monies paid in precept by the residents, are paid back to the residents via good essential projects’ apart from a small generic contingency fund.

Roger Plant

Chairman Saxmundham TC

23/04/17