

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR RICHARD SMITH, MVO

TO ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

13 JUNE, 2016

Mr Mayor, Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen

Please accept my apologies this evening. I will have been at Windsor Castle attending the annual service of the Order of the Garter, and will not be home in time to be with you. I applied for a ticket, and was lucky to be successful in the ballot.

May I congratulate you on your considerable efforts to mark the Queen's Official 90th birthday yesterday and am sorry the weather was poor. The huge amount of planning that had gone into the event was very evident and I'm sure those who came along enjoyed themselves. The memory of that huge owl, which the Mayor and I both thought from behind resembled a cat, will long stay in my memory!

You don't need me to remind you that the Aldeburgh Festival has now begun and the town will be very busy for the next three months with this and various other events. It was pleasing to see that the Chairman of Aldeburgh Music, Simon Robey became Sir Simon in the Birthday Honours List. Until March this year I served on their Trustee Body as an Observer representing Suffolk County Council and know how effective he is as Chairman. Further, I also know that he and all at Aldeburgh Music wish to maintain a very good relationship with this Town Council and the town in general, and the second year of concerts on the beach is a welcome example of this.

Some highways work has been completed in the town; more work will follow and I am pressing for action to correct a flooding problem at the northern end of The Terrace. I am assured that other work for which I am paying through my Highways Budget will move forward

this Summer, as more staff have been found to tackle what has become a considerable backlog county-wide. This should mean progress on reducing the speed limit between Aldringham and Aldeburgh. I am still contacted regularly by affected residents about the real lack of progress here, despite my very best efforts. The scheme has to go in front of the County's Speed Panel for consideration, and there is as yet no date for a hearing. I live in hope, and continue to apply what pressure I can for progress.

Yesterday the Mayor said to me that he hoped my report would be short. So, Ladies and Gentlemen, that's it for this month!

Richard Smith

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