

**REPORT TO ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL FROM
COUNTY COUNCILLOR RICHARD SMITH, MVO 10 OCTOBER, 2016**

I apologise that I cannot be with you this evening. I am co-hosting the Museum of the Year Awards at the University of Suffolk where one of the finalists for that title is the Leiston Long Shop Museum. I have not been told who has won, and it will be announced about the same time as your Council is meeting.

Perhaps it is a good thing to say that there is not much to report. I have not heard back from the Police and Crime Commissioner following my meeting with him a month ago, and I have e-mailed him asking for a statement on his position about PCSOs and the hours they are allowed to work. He is holding a public meeting at the Community Centre in Leiston on the evening of Tuesday 29th November, and it may be wise to attend that event and ask him direct questions there.

The speed and parking alterations both along the B1122 and around Church Farm Road continue and will gather pace over the next month or two. Preliminary comments have been invited; the next stage is for a formal public consultation involving exhibiting the plans. I hope many residents of Aldeburgh will take the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes.

I now visit Alde Valley Academy on at least a once-a-term basis. I am pleased to report that I now receive a very warm welcome there, something which has not always been the case. The new permanent head teacher, Mr Wilson, in a short time has achieved the accolade of 'most improved school in Suffolk' for the exam results this summer. It is now a relatively small secondary school of around 360 pupils, as many Saxmundham pupils have been lost to the Free School there, but I am now more confident than I have been that meaningful and measurable progress is being made by the school. An OFSTED inspection is expected imminently.

I was pleased to visit the refurbished Aldeburgh Library on 21st September, the day after a new carpet had been laid. I presented medals and certificates to children who had completed the *Summer Reading Challenge* – but the real challenge lay with the Librarian who tried vainly to keep the new carpet clean whilst the young people munched into chocolate cake! I regret I am unable to attend the official re-opening of the Library and have sent my apologies.

Yesterday I attended the County Harvest Festival service in the Cathedral at Bury St Edmunds which was, as ever, a joyous occasion, conducted in front of the Lord Lieutenant and Bishop. Long service certificates were presented to farm workers, one of whom had served a total of 54 years working on the same farm. Angel Hill was occupied by a Farmers' Market, including the exhibition of an absolutely huge tractor, all of which served to emphasise the importance still of agriculture to this county.

Looking forward, I was pleased to receive your invitation to the Remembrance Sunday commemorations in Aldeburgh, which this year I am pleased to accept and I will lay a wreath.

Richard Smith, MVO

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