

Mayor's Report

February 2016

Dear All.

This month I attended the unveiling of a plaque marking the great contribution to literature, and Bungay, of Elizabeth Jane Howard.

The siting of the plaque was organised by the Bungay Library, The Bungay Society and Nicky and Elliott Starks, Jane's family, who know live in the house at Bridge Street.

On the 7th of February I attended the memorial service for Anthony Benson-Smith, Bungay Primary School's Deputy Head teacher, who tragically died in a road traffic collision.

I have continued discussions with Suffolk constabulary regarding cuts to the local service. Hugh Taylor, mayor of Beccles and I meet with the PCC and Peter Aldous last week to discuss extra provision for our towns. It was a very useful meeting which I hope will bare fruit.

Although we in Bungay will have a dedicated PCSO for the next year, Beccles and Bungay SNT as a whole are facing a proposed reduction of 60% in officers. Something I am not prepared to take lying down.

We will be getting an election on 3rd of March to decide who will join us on the council and I urge you all to tell and encourage as many people as you can to get out there and use their vote.

I have been asked the position of "Lucy's Island" as the footpath around the perimeter and bridge have fallen into disrepair.

The footpath is only a permissive right of way granted by the previous owner, as is the bridge.

The Island will be going up for auction on the 17th of this month and I propose we contact the new owner after the auction to discuss the possibility of them granting similar consents to those that previously existed.

It has been discussed before at council that we purchase the island. This was discounted on practical grounds. As it stands we would be very restricted in our operations on the island, there being very limited restrictions to the land put in place by the present owner of the bridge.

OB 14/02/16

