

District Councillor Report – October 2024 - James Eddy

As many of you are aware, in the last year or so I have put a lot of focus into working to improve the condition of the graveyard at Redenhall Church. This has proven to be challenging and time consuming but given the historical value of these graves and the personal importance that their proper upkeep has for many people locally, it is an undertaking that has great worth.

As any of you who have visited the graveyard recently can attest, I am happy to report that there has been a significant improvement in the physical state of the graveyard and the graves. I must therefore give enormous credit to those who have worked to make these improvements possible. Despite budget constraints and essentially having to learn on the job, officers at South Norfolk, have been very helpful and willing to talk and find creative solutions to a problem that has really been there for years. In this way, the use of the probation service has proven invaluable and I can attest anecdotally that this kind of work has, in this instance, proven to have value and provided a sense of accomplishment to those undertaking the work.

Susan Whymark Funeral Services have also had a hand in clearing one of the areas of the graveyard, while the Waveney Volunteers for Nature have spent several days clearing out vast swathes of grass and overgrowth in the last few months. Thanks must also be given to the members of the public who have been highlighting this issue over several years and without whose persistence, none of these improvements would have happened.

Of course, this doesn't mean that the job is done. There are a number of challenges that still remain and there is a need for the work that has been done to be continued on a more consistent basis. However, I am confident that this will be the case moving forward.

I was pleased to find out from South Norfolk Council that the application to classify the Wortwell Bell as an Asset of Community Value had been successful. This can only be a positive development given how important the pub has been to the local community over so many years. As we all know, there have been many well documented difficulties for The Bell so, it must be hoped that this is a sign that better times are ahead. As someone with a strong personal connection to the place and many positive personal memories of nights and days spent there, my fingers are firmly crossed that it can be retained and used in the best interests of the whole community in the very near future.

As usual I can be contacted by email (james.eddy@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk) or by visiting Harleston Information Plus on the last Saturday of each month between 10am and 12.

All the best,

James