**Borough Councillors Report March 2019**

1. **West Suffolk Council :** On April 1st 2019 St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council will be replaced by a single new district council called West Suffolk Council. Your council tax bill includes the change of council name and our new bank details for making payments. If you pay by direct debit you **do not** need to take any action. The only change you will notice is that from 1st April West Suffolk Council will collect your direct debits instead of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. There is no need for you to complete any new instructions, notification of the change will be supplied directly to your bank/building society. Please be aware for fraud purposes that West Suffolk Council will not contact you directly to ask for bank details. If you pay by standing order then you will need to change this with your bank using the reference number and new bank details which are shown on your bill. Again, the council will not contact you directly for bank or personal financial information.
2. **Celebrating 150 years of Lacy Scott:** Henry Lacy Scott founded his auctioneer business in 1869 and started the Cattle Market five years later. The history of this important local business will be celebrated at Moyses Hall Museum from §3th March to 11th April.
3. **West Suffolk College:**  Part funded by West Suffolk councils the College have launched their One Step Closer initiative designed to help reduce youth unemployment and meet the skills needs of local employers. The College will be employing 3 new talent coaches who will work closely with the young people to provide them with full development training that will prepare them for employment.
4. **Housing register:** Almost 1700 households across West Suffolk have re-registered on the council’s housing register. These applications now need to be assessed and processed by staff before they are made live from 1st April. People can still re-register at [www.home-link.org.uk](http://www.home-link.org.uk) but their application will not necessarily be live by 1st April. There will be no change to how banding is organised unless there is a change in the applicants’ circumstances. I would urge anyone who may need housing to register in order for us to have an up to date register of need in our villages.
5. **Housing delivery test:** Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government published the Housing Delivery Test results for each Local Authority this month. I am pleased to say that both our Councils have delivered against the required number of homes over the last three years. No penalty will be applied as a result we of one of the 66% of all local authorities across the Country to have met the tests.