

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

17 October 2019

COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES.

For the period 5th September to 7th October 2019

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

The last month has seen a very busy schedule of meetings with local businesses and really demonstrates the diversity of what local enterprise looks like in West Norfolk. In addition, the East of England All Party Parliamentary Group event saw me attending Anglian Water's Water treatment plant at Ingoldisthorpe and British Sugar at Wisington. Each of these businesses has a positive story to tell:

Anglian Water – Invested in reed beds to naturally filter the output from its plant, improving water quality on the upper reaches of the River Ingol and reducing speed of flow helping prevent flooding lower down the catchment.

Wisington – Growing over 40 acres of Cannabis inside greenhouses for use in pharmaceuticals, utilising the output heat and CO2 from its sugar production.

KL Technologies – 3 very varied businesses under one umbrella, making a diverse range of products including ceramic water filters that allow water to be used safely in countries where quality is otherwise poor across the globe. Production equipment, speeding up the moulding process in ceramics whilst using less energy and Production of microporous materials. All of which utilising power derived from Solar array and Wind turbine adjacent to their premises.

Ponders End Investments PLC – Recently moved to West Norfolk and currently in the process of refurbishing the former Gardman Warehouse on Hamlin Way. Their warehousing, importing and exporting of goods at this unit has seen retention of former Gardman employees and great growth potential in addition to their existing sites in North London and Fakenham.

What A Hoot Gin – A Norfolk based family Gin Distillers already looking to expand and take on more staff, with exciting plans for the future.

Interestingly these meetings happened around the time that the New Anglia LEP had its final workshop on its Local Industrial Strategy. While this is a high

level document with aspirations for how industry will evolve, it has been clear to me that the diverse nature of Business in West Norfolk is already gearing up for the future.

Unusually the last month has also seen a number of Civic Receptions that I have attended as outlined in meetings attended below. These too were varied in their nature from Exercising the Freedom of the Borough, retirements of our Chief Executive and Mayor's Sword Bearer to thanking Darren Taylor as he moves on from his role at KLFM, the Kings Lynn BID and Mayor's Charity.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Nothing to report

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

In addition to my usual round of Portfolio and Cabinet meetings I have also attended the following:

Corporate Performance Panel

Meetings with Cllr DeWhalley ref Notice of Motion

Alive West Norfolk Board

Civic Reception – Green Pilgrimage / Tourism

Norfolk Leaders Meeting

East of England All Party Parliamentary Group- Visit to West Norfolk.

Meeting with What A Hoot – Norfolk Gin Distillers

Meeting with New Local Inspector for Downham Market Police

New Anglia LEP – Leaders workshop on Industrial Strategy

Meeting with Norfolk & Waveney CCG Chair and Chief Executive

Visit to KL Technologies

Meetings with Sir Henry Bellingham MP and Elizabeth Truss MP

Freedom of the Borough Parade – for Air Cadets.

Joint safety and Welfare Committee

Yes I Can 2 Event

Mayors Reception for Darren Taylor – KLFM

Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board Annual Inspection

Water Management Alliance Board

Meeting with new Project Manager for Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership

Visit to Ponders End Investments

Civic Reception marking the Retirement of Ray Harding

Norfolk Coast Partnership Core Management Group

Borough / COWA liaison Committee

Planning Committee Training.

Civic Reception marking the retirement of Don Bruce – Mayors Sword bearer

To be attended at the time of writing:
Meeting with Labour Group Leader
East Polver and Nar of Ouse IDB