

# ANNUAL Parish Report 2016

## Councillor

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**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET;** this was again agreed with a zero increase in council tax; but with an extra 2% to cover increase in cost of adult care.

**FIRE SERVICE;** as a result of the proposed reduction in fire engines in Bury Ipswich and Lowestoft we put a motion to council to have these put on hold. This was debated for over 2 hours ; when put to the vote it was lost by 35 to 36. As the result of public concern some amendments have been made.

**HIGHWAYS;** the new assistant director for highways is Mark Stevens. The issue of road repairs continues to be a problem. After much nagging we did get the repair to the bridge on Park Rd done.

**HGVs;** at that meeting I got a question to the cabinet member asking him whether Suffolk will be doing a review of HGV routes. As we know this is causing some real concern.

**BUS SERVICE;** the new contracts for community bus service have been agreed for Mid Suffolk area is to be run by ASPIRE. Suffolk County council will no longer issue timetables so they can be downloaded from [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com) and printed to be given out or left in public places.

**SCHOOLS;** I am of course concerned that the government has decreed that all schools must become Academies; i.e. no longer the responsibility of the county council with no requirement for parent governors. The county council will still have responsibility for school transport and providing school places!! There has been a bit of a turn round in that any school that is outstanding will no longer be forced to become an academy. Rattlesden Primary has already joined 3 other schools to become a Multi Academy Trust.

**BEYTON SWIMMING POOL;** with a group of concerned residents who are trying to have the pool re-opened as a community facility we have been in discussion with Marc Rolph business manager at Thurston community college. A business

plan has been developed and they are now looking for financial help to get the renovation of the boiler and other work done.

**FOSTER CARERS;** there is to be another campaign to get more foster carers in Suffolk.

**NEW CHARGES AT RE-CYCLING CENTRES;** there will now be charges for some building materials which is causing some concerns that it will contribute to more fly tipping.

**BROAD BAND;** Despite more money being put in this continues to be a problem. I have passed the latest email from Cllr Noble to the clerk.

**CLOSURE OF MAGISTRATE COURTS;** there was unanimous agreement to object to the proposal to close the court in Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft.

**DEVOLUTION PROPOSALS;** following the chancellors announcement this is going full steam! However there is already a vote against by Cambridge county council. I have grave concern at the idea of a directly elected Mayor who will have so much power with little democratic accountability. All council have to vote on the plan by June followed by some sort of consultation then back to the councils around September with elections for the Mayor in May 2017

**LOCALITY BUDGET;** I am pleased to have been able to give some support to a project at Thurston Community College run by a Charity which helps students get into the world of work. Also a drama project at Rattlesden Primary school run by Theatre Royal. Also £400 towards new grit bins.

**MID SUFFOLK;**

The chief executive has a new job so there may be a new person in post by the end of the year.

Following major concern at the application by Envirofield I am pleased that at last the planning officer appears to be looking again at the application details. I have tried to get a different response from SCC highways.

It was agreed to increase council tax by 1.9%, I put an amendment to use £80,000 of the £6.3 million transformation fund to compensate for the £100,000 reduction by SCC in community transport and to use the government transition grant of £39,000 to reverse the proposal to increase the charges for brown bins and bulky waste collection which I think is a retrograde step

**PLANNING** ; I have been spoken to the director to get confirmation that despite the council not having a 5 year land supply the council still has the ability to refuse applications in the countryside

**COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY; (CIL)** the levels of payment were agreed and will be part of a consultation and should start 11<sup>th</sup> April. Any outstanding Section 106 agreements must be completed by then.

CIL is not charged on affordable housing and buildings used by charities.

**ONE OFF LOCALITY GRANTS;** for this year only Mid Suffolk has some money available for community projects so I am pleased to have allocated £1,000 to the village hall.