

# Annual Parish Report – MAY 2022

**Councillor: Penny Otton**

**Divisions: THEDWASTRE SOUTH**

**County Council Details**

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This year has continued to be “dogged” by COVID which is even now affecting many schools.

However, I’m sure we all agree the war in Ukraine has left us all feeling shocked and helpless. I know many people are now registering to house refugees and I have sent all my parishes the current information we have on how Suffolk will respond, and what is required to house them. A motion to council condemning Russia, action was agreed unanimously.

**MOTIONS TO COUNCIL;** over the past year we are pleased to get full support to make 20mph enforceable, support local energy companies, and against violence against women and girls.

I am doing one on 19<sup>th</sup> about sewerage discharge into our rivers.

**PETITION ON HIGHWAYS CONTRACT;** my group have started a petition to bring the highways contract back in house.

## **Biodiversity Recommendations to Enhance**

Suffolk County Council will be doing more for the county’s natural environment, as it confirmed plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land by 2030. Examples include planting more hedgerows, improving highway trees, and developing nature-based flood management solutions.

## **Budget Meeting: GLI Amendments Declined**

Suffolk County Council voted in their budget for 2022-23. and the Conservative’s did not take the maximum social care precept to fund adult care allowed by Government. Suffolk GLI Group highlighted the need to invest more in adult social care,

## **Carbon Budget**

The first Carbon Budget for Suffolk The Carbon Budget is aimed to help us understand the level of emissions the Council are responsible for and helps to achieve the Council’s ambition of being carbon-neutral by 2030.

## **Report into SEND Provision: Review & Recommendations**

Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision. The report found severe failings in the delivery of Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plans for children.

## **Bus Back Better: Initiative from the Department for Transport (DfT)**

The Bus Back Better scheme was launched this year, aimed at updating, expanding, and improving our bus services in Great Britain. The Cabinet at Suffolk County Council approved a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) submitted to Government, while Suffolk County Council which was unsuccessful.: I have asked if a KATCH response service can be set up in this area.

#### **New Investment in Drainage and Footway Infrastructure**

The Cabinet approved £10m to replace broken pipes and new installations, as well as an additional £10m to increase the maintenance of selected footways in Suffolk.

### **MIDSUFFOLK**

I did not agree to the rise in council house rents and there was a problem with the letters to tenants, hopefully this is now resolved.

COUNCIL TAX; it was agreed my all that there was no need for a rise in the MidSuffolk portion, so my group asked that we spend money to provide electric buses for some villages around the Stowmarket area. This is still in progress

ENERGY GRANT; I have asked mid Suffolk to make sure all those who do not pay by direct debit get their £150.

LOCALITY FUND; happy to have been able to help with cost of reprinting footpath maps. I have now put in application for village entrance gates for £2,500

PLANNING; the new Local plan is still in progress and will need to be signed off by the inspectors. I objected to the application at Chapel lane.

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