

Annual Parish Report – 2022/23

Councillor: Penny Otton

Divisions: Thedwastre south

County Council Details

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Ukraine: One Year Anniversary

A year has passed since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It was on the 24th March that Councillors cross-party shared a single motion in support of Ukraine. Our Group recommended the motion, condemning the actions of Putin, as well as committed to support and welcome refugees to become a part of Suffolk communities. The 'Homes for Ukraine' programme continue to provide hosts for refugees but is in dire need of more households to come forward and offer temporary accommodation. If you think you can still help, please visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/Ukraine.

Hosts are entitled to £350 per month, which increases to £500 after 12 months.

A14; MAJOR WORK; we need to make sure that traffic is not using the side roads as a diversion. There is a direct line number to report any problems. I set up a meeting with Highways England to see what measures could be taken to help

LOCALITY BUDGET; I have been able to help fund the WELCOME GATES and the daffodils

Over the past 12 months my Group have submitted motions for Full Council meeting.

In July, we asked this Council to declare **a cost-of-living emergency** in the county of Suffolk. With Winter looming, we believed more emphasis was needed on providing emergency support to the most vulnerable households. This was voted down.

In December, we ask the Council to commit further to **Community Transport**, as well as investigate further into why the council failed in their Bus Back Better bid. Rural bus services have been frequently cut, and the council's failed bid meant millions for investment in restoring the bus network was lost. Again, this was voted down.

I am very proud that the motion **I put to promote cleaner rivers in Suffolk**. Was agreed unanimously. We believe every community should have access to safe waters. The motion committed the Council to investigate further into what further work can be done to protect biodiversity and address polluting run-off in rivers, as well as working with farmers to encourage better practice.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY; in 2019 our motion to declare a climate emergency was agreed, however as there are now 31 new councillors, we decided to ask for that commitment again last month which was approved

Carbon Budget – SCC is Not on Track

Importantly, the Council's progress towards achieving Net Zero by 2030 – a declaration made by SCC in 2019. Current forecasts show that SCC will still be producing 10,000 tonnes of CO2 in 2030 –

As SCC has had 31 new Cllrs since the original declaration, our Group will be asking Cllrs to redeclare their commitment to Net Zero by 2030 last month

Suffolk Devolution: Big Deal?

In 2022, the Government published its White Paper on Levelling-Up, within which it has agreed that Suffolk will be one of nine initial 'County Deals' up for negotiation to devolve powers. A public consultation will now follow, asking residents if this is what communities want. The deal will look to install a directly elected leader, commonly known as a Mayor.

HIGHWAYS: CROSS STREET; along with the residents and parish council we have continue to press for this to be dealt with ,pot holes continue to be a problem, however the council has just announced more funds to sort these out. The contract has been awarded to the M GROUP

THURSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE; they are trying to see if more people would make use of the sport facilities and I,ve sent the survey to the clerk

There is a vacancy for a school; governor so let me know if interested.

MIDSUFFOLK

It was a difficult decision to decide not to stand for re=election. But I know you will give Nicky all the help you have given me.

The new Green party administration will take time to settle in.

BIN LORRIES; the competition to name the new ones took place.

PARKING ON ADSA CAR PARK; I have raised the problems there and the new machines are now in place..

BUSES; again we have tried to get help with a bus route to Stowmarket, there is now a Wednesday one run my David,s coaches through Rattlesden to Stowmarket

GRANTS FOR CHARITIES AND COMMUNITIES' a new "pot" on top of locality fund

us on:

Twitter - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

Facebook - Search 'Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group'

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)