

Parish Report NOVEMBER 2017

Councillor

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CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Cllr Gordon Jones has issued an email to say he is setting up some workshops to consider this with “partners” randomly selected. I have not been invited but hope Helen Wilson has. I now look like this will return to cabinet in December.

30 HOUR FREE CHILDCARE; this is raising concern as many pre-schools and nurseries are unable to provide this amount of care on the £3.87 per hour they receive from Suffolk County council. The council receives money from government but is retaining £2million of that for admin costs. We have asked that this be rereviewed as many childcare providers are struggling. I know Rattlesden playgroup is.

MID SUFFOLK

BOUNDARY REVIEW OF CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES; The Boundary Commission appears to have accepted our view that we do not go into South Suffolk.

BOUNDARY REVIEW OF DISTRICT WARDS. You should now have the response from the Boundary Commission. I am pleased their suggestion for Rattlesden ward is in line with much of ours!! However, considering the issue below all this could change!

MERGER OF MID SUFFOLK AND BABERGH. This went to a simultaneous meeting of the 2 council, s cabinets on 13th October (when I was away!!) us opposition groups were given a briefing by the CEX without any papers!! The cabinets approved this will go out for public “engagement” until Dec.2017. However, councillors at Babergh have called it into scrutiny, despite councillors at Mid Suffolk being told it could not be. How can the monitoring officer give different advice to each council?? Because some of us critised this it will now go to a joint scrutiny committee. Unlike last time there is no obligation to hold a referendum, although there are moves to try to force the councils to do so. If this merger goes ahead this could mean elections to a new council!

LOCAL PLAN. Unfortunately, Bill Newman has left but his replacement is Robert Hobbs who will not start until 18th December. I suggest you contact Tom Barker in the meantime.