

# Parish Report –March/April 2023

Councillor: **PENNY OTTON**

Divisions: THEDWASTRE STH

County Council Details

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For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving)

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email:

[refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk) or [ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](mailto:ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk)

## **GLI Motion Voted In: New Chamber Recommit to Net Zero**

At Full Council, last month the GLI Group proposed a motion for SCC to recommit to its declaration to be Net Zero by 2030. And declare a climate emergency The original declaration, made in 2019, Since then, we have had an election which means 31 Cllrs have yet to formally commit themselves to Net Zero by 2030.

In January, it was announced in the Carbon Budget that SCC is not on track to achieve Net Zero by 2030. In proposing the motion, we should prioritise building a clearer roadmap to protecting our environment. The motion was passed almost unanimously, with 2 Conservative Cllrs abstaining.

## **New Woman’s Flag up in SCC**

Women’s History Month was celebrated throughout March, with International Women’s Day being on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Last year, GLI Spokesperson for Women, Cllr Caroline Page, wrote to Suffolk County Council, asking that them to purchase a Suffragette Flag to fly proudly in celebrating a women’s **story**.

**NEW FIRE AND POLICE STATION IN STOWMARKET**; this was opened in March

## **Cabinet Meeting (21<sup>st</sup> March)**

The Cabinet agreed an additional £32m investment to increase school provision in the county. With the new funding, 11 new schools will be built, as well as further maintenance and expansion of current schools. Our Group welcomes additional support and will ensure there is a thorough process to the development and planning of new infrastructure.

## **SEND Report: Update**

The Government’s assessment of the SEND services progress in Suffolk has been described as ‘reassuring’ after adopting all recommendations given in the Council’s damning report back in 2021. This comes as recent news from SCC said they have hired a Special Advisor for SEND Services, to support existing improvements. We will ensure via the Education Scrutiny Committee that this process is rigorously tested.

## **Homes for Ukraine: SCC Commit to More Money**

Suffolk County Council has announced additional financial support for household homing Ukrainian refugees.

Those who have homed a Ukrainian refugee for a minimum of 6 months will receive an additional £150 per month (in addition to the £350 monthly payment, which will rise to £500 after guests have stayed 12 months).

However, once the £500 monthly payment has been received, the council will stop its additional funding.

For more information, please visit: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/ukraine)

## **MIDSUFFOLK.**

**At the last council meeting before the elections it was agreed to the review of CIL funding which can now include feasibility studies. Some CIL money was used towards the new police and fire station in Stowmarket.**

**LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION;** there is a consultation on modifications to the local plan open until 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Council agreed to more enforcement activity , please advise enforcement team if you have issues**

**NEW HEATH, LEISURE/ EDUCATION CENTRE STOWMARKET.** This is being progressed

**LOCALITY FUND;** agreed towards daffodils!!

**EASTER ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN;** details sent to clerk

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