

# Parish Report – February 2022

**Councillor: PENNY OTTON**

**Divisions: THEDWASTRE STH**

**County Council Details**

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## COVID-19

Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Latest Government advice is available here: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Vaccination Appointments can be booked here: [www.sneevaccine.org.uk](http://www.sneevaccine.org.uk)

### **Budget Scrutiny Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> January**

The Scrutiny Committee met on 11<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the Conservative's budget proposals for this year. Our Group believes the budget did not raise the Social Care Precept tax to the necessary amount. Suffolk GLI believes this needs to be raised to a 3% increase, to aid in Suffolk's social care crisis. This recommendation was rejected by the Conservatives.

Furthermore, the council failed to deliver on providing a Carbon Budget to work alongside the core budget. 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

### **Cabinet Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> February**

The Cabinet will meet to discuss the core budget, and vote on whether to pass the budget through to Full Council to be finalised on 17<sup>th</sup> February. The proposal is for a rise in SCC council tax of 1.99% plus 1% for social care. Again, I am not convinced that 1% will be enough to help with crisis in the care service.

Cabinet documents can be found here:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(01-02-2022\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(01-02-2022),%20The%20Cabinet)

### **Transport East**

Suffolk County Council's regional transport body, Transport East, has drafted its new strategy for the future. It explains the investment and priorities Transport East aims to provide, to develop a leading transportation network. Suffolk GLI submitted their comments to Transport East, in the hope they reconsider their strategy. Visit the Suffolk GLI website for our response.

For more information, visit: <https://www.transporeast.org.uk/>

**ROAD WORKS ON A14;** Highways England are planning various works between junctions

43 to 52. Parish councils will be informed. Starting 14<sup>th</sup> February,

including survey of the concrete section 44 to 49 starting in March. Official diversions will be from 8pm to 6am.

### **Suffolk Libraries Day 2022**

Suffolk Libraries is running an online book festival in March, as part of Suffolk Libraries Day 2022. Suffolk Libraries Day is a celebration of the county's library service and the organisation's main fundraising event. Libraries will also be confirming special events nearer the time.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/festival/suffolk-libraries-day-book-festival>

STOWMARKET REFUSE CENTRE; this will be closed for 2 weeks from 28<sup>th</sup> February.

QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS; Suffolk County council will not charge for road closures on the Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. But applications for a road closure need to be in by 27<sup>th</sup> March

## MID SUFFOLK

COUNCIL TAX; the proposal for Mid Suffolk is to not have a rise this year. The council has enough in reserves to do this.

HELP TO MAKE HOMES MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT; those on low incomes can get help to improve their homes and make more efficient. This is being done with West Suffolk council.

FURTHER OMICRON GRANTS FOR HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE; new one-off grants available by 18<sup>th</sup> February.

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