

Parish Report – December 2020

Councillor

Penny Otton

Meadowside
High Street
Rattlesden, Bury St Edmunds
IP30 0RA

Telephone: 07545423847

Email: penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk



Proposed biodiversity motion

At Full Council on the 3rd December, the LDGI Group is proposing a biodiversity motion. If voted through, this motion will ensure:

- Delivery of an SCC biodiversity strategy
- Assessment of how SCC can lead partner organisations in this field.
- Adoption of biodiverse land management options on SCC land.
- A letter to the Secretary of State calling for a clear and ambitious national biodiversity strategy.

Submitted response to Pavement Parking Consultation

Following the Government's announcement of a consultation on potential reforms to the law on pavement parking, my group has submitted a response supporting Option 3: a nationwide roll-out of a London-style ban on pavement parking.

For too long the rules about parking on pavements have been an unnecessary grey area. People looking to park are confused whether it is better to block the roadway or the pavement and end up parking half on and half off pavements – the worst of both worlds.”

Submitted response to Local Government Boundary Commission consultation on draft recommendations

My Group submitted a response to the LGBC consultation. The Group objected to the proposed reduction in councillor numbers, which makes little sense given Suffolk's growing population and the increase in councillor workload.

The Group also registered concern that the proposals from the boundary commission adhered too closely to suggestions received from the Conservative administration at the County Council. I am concerned the proposal for TheWarStore south will include parishes in the east of the county have no relationship with the rest of the division.

The proposed divisions will also destroy previous efforts in multiple areas to align County Council divisions with those of the District Councils.

Finally, the Group objected to multiple instances of cohesive communities are being divided and lumped into divisions with other towns and villages with which they are not closely connected.

OFSTED initial report on SCC's SEND services released

An initial report has been published by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) looking into the support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Suffolk was one of eighteen local authorities taking part in the study to gather evidence to inform future national improvements for children and young people with SEND across Education, Health and Care.

The initial findings of the report suggest that SEND services were maintained during lockdown in Suffolk, and workers have increased collaboration and co-production. The stress level of young people and families had risen, but the County Council has established dedicated services to provide support, including distributing family support boxes to over 2000 families, and running a campaign called Back to School, aimed at helping SEND children transition back into school life.

As my Group's Spokesperson for Education, Children and Young People, I commented:
"I know that many families in Suffolk found the lockdown restrictions extremely difficult to cope with and struggled with isolation. Suffolk County Council's officers and social workers have done great work to improve the lives of children with special needs, especially during the lockdown period when those children and families were in the greatest need of support."

The findings of the initial report can be read here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/council-and-democracy/council-news/Area-SEND-Interim-visit-summary-note.pdf>

MID SUFFOLK

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN ;The council has agreed the next stage of the Joint local plan on 11th November. Then there will be a period of consultation on the legality of the plan.

REVIEW OF CIL CHARGING; again this is out for consultation.

COUNCIL BUYS MORE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT. Once again the administration has approved the purchase of 2 more commercial properties by borrowing money from the public loans board, however the government has now clamped down on this, so this will not be available in the future

BIN COLLECTIONS; I have forwarded the chart for Christmas and new year collections, plus for 2021. These can be downloaded from the Mid Suffolk website but paper copies can be sent if necessary.

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY AND HEALTHY CHRITMAS AND HOPE 2021 WILL BE BETTER THAN 2020