

Cllr Elaine Bryce

Carlford Division

December 2021 Parish Council Report

Introduction

As I sit to compile this month's report, Christmas will soon be upon us and somehow, it seems to have crept up from nowhere this year.

Do please take 5 minutes to send in your feedback to the current consultation around future County Council services – it closes on Monday 20th December. Likewise, don't forget to feed back your views on the Lorry Route Review – the deadline for submissions is Friday 17th December. Do let me know if you have any any queries and I will be happy to support you.

As ever, please don't feel you must wait until your next Parish Council meeting before raising any issues or concerns with me. My door is always open, so to speak, so please drop me an email and I will always do my best to try and help.

In the meantime, may I thank you for your continued support this year and I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas, with every good wish for 2022.

With best wishes,

Elaine

Cllr Elaine Bryce

Carlford Division

Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2BX

Share your thoughts on prioritising future County Council Services as part of planning the 2022/23 budget

On November 19th a public consultation was launched to find out where people place their priorities and thoughts on how council funds its services.

Following the Chancellor's recent Spending Review and Autumn Budget, Suffolk County Council will have the option to raise Council Tax by 2% and the Adult Social Care Precept by 2%. With local authorities continuing to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, global supply chain issues and climate change, Suffolk County Council is asking residents for their thoughts on helping the council prioritise its funding towards services in the coming financial year alongside meeting the continuing costs of statutory care services.

Although the last two years have proved to be an extraordinary time, the county council continues to aim to provide the best possible outcomes for local people through a multitude of frontline services that support residents, businesses, and the county at large.

With rising costs and increasing service demand year on year, the finances at our disposal have to be carefully planned and considered for us to continue to achieve a balanced budget each year in extremely challenging circumstances.

Suffolk County Council's priorities this year are to:

- promote and support the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk
- strengthen our local economy
- protect and enhance our environment
- provide value for money for the Suffolk taxpayer

With careful financial management and planning, the county council has already saved hundreds of millions of pounds during the last decade, whilst being innovative in the delivery of many of its services. Many challenges remain in the light of the recent pandemic, and the continuing difficult financial position that many local authorities have faced for a number of years.

Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment at Suffolk County Council, says:

"Local public services continue to face many financial challenges as we look to recover from COVID, address rising energy costs and invest our limited resources and money in the priority areas of service to protect our most vulnerable residents.

"As part of the annual budgeting process, it is important to hear your thoughts on the services we deliver, to understand which ones you believe should be prioritised, and how we may look to fund future spending in these areas.

“Did you know that around 75p of every £1 Suffolk County Council spends goes towards supporting those who need it most through Adult Care, Children’s Services, and Public Health?

“The remaining 25p in every £1 is then used to cover the cost of the many other vital services we provide, including Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, road maintenance, footpaths, waste services, libraries and addressing the challenges surrounding climate change, to name just a handful. Year on year we are seeing particular challenges in continuing to provide adult care and children’s services within budget. Adult care alone costs around £271m each year.

“We are absolutely committed to providing the best services for all residents, but like all councils we do not have unlimited funds. This means that if residents want us to spend more money on certain services, we have to spend less in other areas in order to continue to balance our budget now and in the future.

“I want to understand more about the areas you want us to focus on with the budget that we have left over after covering our statutory care duties. Whilst this may be limited, we continue to use every penny wisely to bring many benefits to Suffolk. As part of this engagement, we want to find out where people place their priorities and how they feel about the way in which we fund these services.

“Thank you for your participation in this important aspect of planning our annual budget.”

Councillor Rout continues:

“I’m encouraged by the fact that the Chancellor has recognised the excellent work carried out by local authorities in the last year announcing new grant funding of £4.8billion for local authorities over the next three years. We wait to see in the coming months, how much comes to Suffolk.”

A proposed budget will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on 1 February 2022 and the final budget will be discussed at Full Council on 17 February 2022.

[More information about the council’s finances and the consultation can be found at \[suffolk.gov.uk/budget2022\]\(https://suffolk.gov.uk/budget2022\)](https://suffolk.gov.uk/budget2022)

The consultation closes on Monday 20 December 2021.

#AllMenCan help make the change this White Ribbon Day

A column from November 23rd by Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Public Protection and Communities.

The past eighteen months has been challenging for all of us, but even more so for the 2.3 million adults aged 16 to 74 who have experienced domestic abuse during this time.

It is a myth that this only occurs in heterosexual relationships, as anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse regardless of their gender, age, ethnicity, sexual preference and identity, religion, or social background.

This can take many forms – including controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, physical violence or sexual abuse – as the abuser seeks to establish and maintain power and control over another person.

Victims will often be isolated from their family and friends, or have their access to money restricted – intensifying their feelings of fear and hopelessness about the situation they have unwillingly found themselves in.

Data shows it is more common for women to be victims, with the Office of National Statistics reporting that almost one in three women aged 16-59 will, sadly, experience domestic abuse in her lifetime – making it very likely that this has happened to someone you know.

The annual White Ribbon Day campaign begins this Thursday, November 25, with the aim of helping to end violence against women and girls.

This year's theme is [#AllMenCan](#), following on from the tragic murder of Sarah Everard in March and the conversations this led to about the role of men in making women feel safe at home, at work and in their community.

It is easy for men to assume that simply not being violent or abusive to women themselves is enough, when in reality so much more needs to be done.

Our council is joining with partners from the Safer Stronger Communities Board to ask all men in Suffolk to make the White Ribbon Promise; to never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women. This includes promising to never look the other way, removing the onus on women to keep themselves safe and acknowledging that whilst violence against women isn't the fault of all men, it is their responsibility.

I will be making this pledge myself and have given great thought to what I can do help, not just as a man, but as cabinet member for Public Health, Public Protection and Communities.

It is incredibly important to me that everyone feels safe in Suffolk and our council remains committed to working closely with partners, including the police and district and borough councils, to provide residents with the support needed for this to happen.

Anyone who is worried that they, or someone they know, may be a victim of domestic abuse can [find dedicated information and advice on our website](#) or call the Suffolk Domestic Abuse Helpline free of charge 24 hours a day on **0800 977 5690**.

We also have a Domestic Abuse Champion network to empower organisations to help people experiencing domestic abuse. To date Suffolk Public Sector Leaders has provided funding for over 500 champions to be trained – equipping them with the skills they need to offer consistent information, advice and support to bring lasting positive changes for victims across Suffolk.

Organisations wishing to benefit from free domestic abuse training can find out more about becoming a champion by emailing dachampions@suffolk.gov.uk.

In addition, our officers will be visiting rural foodbanks in the county during the White Ribbon campaign to meet with service users and staff, as we continue to raise awareness in our communities about the signs of domestic abuse and the help available.

We've also partnered with several Suffolk high schools to provide students with the opportunity to lend their support to the campaign by participating in different activities, such as art sessions.

Further information on this and our other plans for White Ribbon Day itself, and the 16 days of action following this, will be shared on our council's Twitter and Facebook pages.

You can play your part by visiting www.whiteribbon.org.uk to find out more about the White Ribbon campaign and to make the promise yourself.

Together we must support victims to recognise domestic abuse and seek help at the earliest opportunity.

Government funding boost for Suffolk community schemes

On November 5th, two Suffolk schemes received Government funding totalling more than £940,000

Enabling Self-Employment in Suffolk and the Suffolk Road to Net Zero business support programme are among 477 schemes across the country to receive backing from the Community Renewal Fund.

This is a £200 million pot set up by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities aimed at boosting skills training for the unemployed and investing in businesses developing low-carbon technology.

The two Suffolk schemes, which are both being led by New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) and which were put forward by Suffolk County Council, receive a total of £945,974.

Enabling Self-Employment, which receives £412,208, delivers self-employment support across Suffolk, particularly amongst disadvantaged communities in East Suffolk.

Building on the established programme of Business Start-Up support in Norfolk and Suffolk, it works with employed and unemployed people – including those who were on furlough or who are under-employed and economically vulnerable – from deprived groups and communities.

Suffolk Road to Net Zero receives £533,766.

This is a scheme offering grants to support businesses in developing low-carbon projects and which contribute to the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan's key theme of reducing industrial and commercial emissions, informs a model for place-based Net Zero strategies, and generates benefits for nature-based solutions.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, the leader of Suffolk County Council, said:

"I am delighted that these two excellent schemes will receive funding that will enable them to carry on their good work in Suffolk.

"Low carbon initiatives in industry have a crucial part to play in the national and global economy and the work of Suffolk Road to Net Zero is key in our commitment locally towards addressing the climate emergency that we declared in 2019.

"Similarly, Enabling Self-Employment is helping people who want to work for themselves. They deserve our support, particularly as our economy continues to recover from the effects of COVID-19."

Chris Starkie, chief executive of New Anglia LEP, said: “This is fantastic news. As our economy looks to recover from the impact of the pandemic, we want to ensure this is the best place to live, work, learn and do business.

“These programmes will help people grow their own businesses and support SMEs to take important steps to reduce their carbon footprint.”

The £200 million from the UK Community Renewal Fund will help local areas prepare for the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022, the scheme the Government says will see UK-wide funding at least match EU money, reaching around £1.5 billion a year.

Search is on for warehouse space to aid foodbanks in Suffolk

It was announced on November 25th that the council is urgently appealing for available warehouse space near to Ipswich to help provide supplies for the county’s foodbanks and local charities.

Ipswich based charity FareShare East of England urgently need to find new facilities to ensure they can store and distribute vital food for Suffolk’s foodbanks. The charity is currently supported by a depot in Nottingham via trips to Cambridge, but this is not sustainable in the long-term for serving charities and community groups in Suffolk.

Anyone who owns and has spare storage facilities could be able to help preserve some of the vital food that Suffolk’s most vulnerable residents need. FareShare East of England is looking at sites that meet the following criteria:

- In or in very close proximity to Ipswich
- Building in –in the region of 10,000 square feet
- Buildings with height for racking of 6-7 meters
- Must have access for articulated lorries
- Office space for six people/workstations
- 415 voltage supply to building for refrigerators etc.

FareShare East of England is looking for a building on a formal rental basis for a 5-year term rent at a rate of £5 to £10 per square foot but would also look at a 10-year term on the same rate, with a 5-year break clause.

Chair of the Collaborative Communities Board, Chrissie Geeson said:

“One of the things people in Suffolk do best is come together to support each other in times of need. This is one of those times. We appreciate that few people will be in a position to help FareShare East of England with this very specific request, but we’re hopeful that someone or a business in our community will come forward and make a real difference in our work to support the most vulnerable people in Suffolk.”

As of February 2021, there were over 2,000 foodbanks in the UK, that are working hard to help feed our nation and Suffolk County Council is proud to be supporting foodbanks throughout Suffolk.

FareShare East of England is part of the UK-wide FareShare network of charitable food redistributors, made up of 18 independent organisations. In 2020/21 FareShare East of England supported nearly 150 local charities and community groups and provided them with the equivalent of nearly four million meals. Due to the current lack of facilities they are currently only able to provide a reduced service to their member charities and community groups. To do this they rely on volunteers to carry out their work and many of the volunteers are based in Ipswich which is why a site in the town is being sought after.

To offer a site please contact Regional Manager Mike Barrett, FareShare East of England via email on: michael.barrett@fareshare.org.uk

Environment Focus:

Suffolk County Council investing £12.8m to decarbonise its buildings

It was announced on November 9th that properties, including fire stations and libraries, will receive investment as the council continues to drive its ambition to be Net Zero by 2030.

Suffolk County Council will be committing £12.8m towards reducing the carbon produced by buildings in its corporate estate.

Cabinet members have approved a report to commit to this investment, as well as implementing the SCC Energy Management Strategy, as recommended by the Climate Emergency Policy Development Panel.

Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment at Suffolk County Council, explains:

“The report that we have approved today outlines an implementation plan for how we approach reducing the carbon emitted by the hundreds of buildings we own. It is a considerable milestone in our journey to Net Zero.

“The detail of the plan can now be developed and our corporate property team will work with central government, partners, industry experts and our own in-house professionals. They will now develop more detailed plans to ensure we are delivering effective projects with a clear focus on value for money.

“We know that significant, urgent investment is needed to fund carbon reduction projects within our estate and this multi-million pound investment is an indication of our commitment.”

The council already has a history of providing dedicated investment to improve the energy efficiency of its buildings and services, which has led to reductions in carbon emissions in recent years. Previous projects have included replacing fossil fuel boilers with bio-mass units, installing solar panels and solar hot water systems, rainwater harvesting and updating lighting.

This latest investment will also work towards reducing energy consumption across the council's buildings to mitigate the effects of increasing energy prices and associated costs.

Through the Energy Management Strategy, the council will target how it can be 'smarter' with its buildings by reducing electricity consumption, reviewing the heating and cooling of its buildings, continuing its LED lighting rollout, replacing older fossil fuel boilers and generating its own energy.

Councillor Rout adds:

"We have been working with partners across the county for many years to understand the impact we are having on climate change. At Suffolk County Council we have introduced many projects to address our carbon emissions, and continue to source a range of other funding to support our ambitions.

"With COP26 emphasising that now is the time to act, this £12.8m investment is a timely announcement that will progress our ambition to be Net Zero by 2030."

We must put the planet first – its future really is hanging by a thread

A column from November 16th written by Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment.

COP26 may now be over, but we must not let the conversations be forgotten or let the positive energy of the last few weeks simply ebb away.

President for COP26, Alok Sharma, said: "We have a monumental challenge ahead of us – and time is running out." The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, said: "Our fragile planet is hanging by a thread. We are still knocking on the door of climate catastrophe."

These are not words used to simply grab some headlines, this is the reality of the situation. We are all living through the stark reality of climate change, and we must not delay doing what is required. Neither must we think that it's down to other people to sort it all out. We all have a responsibility to make changes, no matter how small. If we don't, then we are going backwards, let alone standing still.

There was disappointment at the conference, with the last-minute changes from some nations around "phasing down" coal use, rather than "phasing out", to the Glasgow Pact. However, there were some real positives which should make a significant impact as we work towards slowing down how much the planet is heating up – commitments to reversing deforestation, making farming more sustainable, cutting methane emissions, and creating green shipping corridors.

Despite some alarming headlines and concerns, we should not be without hope. I'm pleased to say that Suffolk is emphasized as an area of the UK that is leading the charge, there is a huge amount of climate change action taking place in Suffolk. In truth, there has been for many years, but you may not be aware of it, or the people who are making difference.

This is why Suffolk County Council hosts the Greenest County Awards, to celebrate communities, individuals, and businesses who are going above and beyond with their efforts and inspiring others along the way.

Our 2021 Awards were held just last week at The Hold in Ipswich, and it was a humbling and inspiring afternoon to be surrounded by like-minded people who all have the same vision, for making Suffolk the Greenest County. From the award-winning children who attended from Alde Valley Academy, to a specially recorded message by Lord Deben, Chairman of the UK's independent Committee on Climate Change, there was a real feeling of 'we can do this' and that in Suffolk 'we are doing this'.

I was pleased that COP26 also emphasized the importance of green spaces and our natural environment. This is something I'm particularly passionate about and proud that Suffolk County Council is leading the way on this locally. Just last year, we planted over 100,000 trees and hedgerows and will be matching this again during the current planting season, and we are supporting the ambitions of the Queen's Green Canopy to plant a tree for every Suffolk resident. We have also recently secured funding from the Forestry Commission to plant both new and mature trees in derelict and disused spaces across the county, in both urban and rural areas.

We are following our 'right tree, right place' policy so that our efforts are managed properly, and trees have the best opportunity to establish themselves. More greenery of course helps with reducing the amount of carbon in the atmosphere but is also incredibly important for our mental health and wellbeing.

Work is also getting underway to develop the Healing Woods and green spaces which we promised as memory to all those we have lost during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last week, Suffolk County Council reached another milestone in our journey to Net Zero, by announcing a £12.8m investment in emphasizing our buildings. In previous years we have installed solar panels, solar hot water systems, replaced fossil fuel boilers, and taken many other measures, but we're now addressing our whole portfolio of properties to accelerate our drive to consume less energy and be 'smarter' with our buildings.

The last few weeks have, yet again, emphasized the stark threat posed by climate change. I hope that you're inspired to make changes for the health of our planet – we must put the planet first, we must never lose sight of the fact that we are simply guests here.

Suffolk's Greenest County Awards Winners Announced

On November 12th, Suffolk celebrated the people and organisations making the biggest environmental difference in the county.

As COP26 came to a close, Suffolk celebrates the people and organisations making the biggest environmental difference in the county. An innovative food recycling company, a nature reserve and the county's Tree Warden Network are among those collecting awards at The Hold in Ipswich today (Friday 12 November 2021).

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment, said:

"Once again, our Greenest County Award winners demonstrate that Suffolk has some of the most innovative, passionate and forward thinking people and organisations in the UK. We hope these stories inspire everyone to think hard about how they can help, as they not only address the climate emergency here in Suffolk, but set a standard for all organisations and industry, leading the way to a greener country and more sustainable world."

Full details of the winners can be found here:

[Suffolk's Greenest County Awards Winners Announced](#)