

## Parish Report MARCH 2014

### Councillor

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**CLOSURE OF SOME CHILDRENS CENTRES:** this was called into the Scrutiny Committee on 11 February for re-examination. It was then referred back to the Cabinet on 24 February where it was again confirmed.

**COUNCIL TAX:** the County Council has agreed a zero increase in council tax; accepting the Government grant to do so. There were, as a result, some cuts to children's services again, and to voluntary organisations, but none to public protection.

**HIGHWAYS:** I have passed onto the Clerk details of all gritting routes and a Website that shows all reported road works and at what stage they are. As councillors we are still having some trouble getting work done in some areas and the Council has had to call in some retired highways officer to cope with the backlog.

**HIGHWAYS AGENCY - A14:** I have had a meeting with the Highways Agency to raise the question of the state of concrete section between Stowmarket and Woolpit including the noise from this part of the road. I also asked Brian Pitkin from the Highways Agency to get the signs replaced for the A14 junction to Thurston and Beyton, the chevrons and to remove the signs left behind following the work done at the end of last year.

**MOBILE PHONE MAST IN RATTLESDEN:** having spoken to an officer at SCC it seems there were some legal 'niceties' to be sorted out so am pleased this has now been done and work started.

**MID SUFFOLK DC:** the budget agreed to a proposal to increase council tax by 5p per week which will raise c£85,000 and not take the Government grant, this being about £56,000. I have argued that as they are putting £280,000 into reserves (this is only one reserve) they could afford to have a zero increase this year. I also did not support a 3% rise in council house rents 1.6% would be sufficient.

**GLIDING CLUB:** at last I thought we had agreed a date of 4 March for the first meeting of the liaison group but there is now a planning committee that morning so am now waiting for Ian Ward to get organised!! We have now had a response from the new chair; Mr Geoffrey Moore, with a draft of terms of reference being used elsewhere.