

Parish Report FEBRUARY 2017

Councillor

Penny Otton

Meadowside
High Street
Rattlesden
Bury St Edmunds
IP30 0RA

01449 737870

penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk



LIBRARY FUNDING; the council is proposing a further cut of £200.000 to financial support for libraries. I am sorry to hear this as community groups have done excellent work in trying to keep our libraries open. I am worried that this could impact on the mobile library service. At a meeting with Alison Wheeler head of Suffolk Libraries she said the cut would mean a reduction in the book stock and staff but was hoping to do all she can to keep the mobile service.

MEETING WITH HIGHWAYS RE HGV,S having got the district to dig out the planning permission for the Buffer Depot in Hightown green Rattlesden there seems the only way to decrease HGV traffic will be to restrict them to certain roads.

CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT; there is to be a change to parking enforcement; this is to be de-criminalised and possibly devolved to districts and boroughs however SCC will need to act quickly to determine and Traffic Regulation Orders for eg new waiting or loading restrictions.

BUDGET; it is proposed to have a 3% increase in council tax specifically for adult social care. This must be ringfenced and will show as a seperate line on your bill.

GRIT PILES; highways will replenish this year but then no longer just refill grit bins.

MID SUFFOLK;

The council has agreed to move to a cabinet/leader model.

REVIEW OF COUNCIL; as part of the boundary commission review of wards there is also a review of the number of councillors.

REVIEW OF LEISURE FACILITIES; a review of the leisure centres is taking place including the lack of swimming facilities. The council is the process of purchasing some land next to the leisure centre in Stowmarket which is now not used by the school.

BUDGET; Mid Suffolk are proposing a 5p increase for a band D property, a small increase in council rents

I did ask whether the charge for emptying dog bins was going up again and can say NO!

PLANNING BLUNDER; I have been in contact with the planning department expressing my dismay at such a fundamental error, and to offer any help to the applicants. They can of course now go to appeal if they wish.