

# Parish Report OCTOBER 2017

## Councillor

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**CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL TRANSPORT;** I joined a group of parents and children from Felsham who walked to Thurston to demonstrate just how difficult and dangerous it would be to walk to school.

I and 4 members of the Lib Dem, Green and Independent group called this into the Scrutiny committee on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Thurston Community College could lose over 800 pupils if they are forced to move to Stowmarket to get free school transport. This could jeopardise the viability of the college. Helen Wilson has been very active and has put her case to the council along with 4 members of the public that this should not happen and has been trying to find an alternative arrangement that would still save money.

I put forward the argument that this would disrupt children's education if they are forced to move schools, increase the number of cars at start and end of school days, split some villages if half are forced to go to different high schools. Whilst disappointed that the scrutiny committee did not recommend putting a halt to this they have referred it back to cabinet (not sure yet the date) who I suspect will agree to go ahead with the consultation despite there being many questions still un- answered.

### **PCC will not pursue plans to take control of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service**

Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, has announced that he will not be pursuing plans to take control of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Services.

Earlier this year the PCC commissioned PA Consulting to undertake an options appraisal to consider the future governance of the Fire and Rescue Service and a potential shift of governance from the County Council to the PCC. This review concluded that there is insufficient evidence to suggest that a governance change would be clearly in the interests of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness; or public safety.

### **Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service launches 'escape plan' campaign**

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has launched a new safety campaign and website highlighting the importance of fire escape plans. The campaign addresses the fact that every year there are

40,000 accidental house fires in the UK. Having an escape plan will allow Suffolk residents to escape the fire quickly and safely.

Visitors to the campaign website will be able to:

- Take a quiz to test how prepared they are to escape a fire
- Create their own escape plan for everyone in their household

The 'escape plan' fire campaign will run until 31 October 2017. More information can be found at [fire.suffolk.gov.uk](http://fire.suffolk.gov.uk)

MID SUFFOLK ; has appointed ICENI HOMES as a housing development partner . ICENI are experienced in developing social housing, part - ownership etc.

BORROWING FROM THE PUBLIC LOANS BOARD; I have again questioned the ethics of this where the council is using PWLB money to invest in commercial enterprises in order to raise income.

And finally!!

I was "delighted" I think to have won the weight of the pumpkin at the fete!!!