

Parish Report FEBRUARY 2018

Councillor

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School Travel Consultation launched

Despite parents, governors and councillors voicing serious concerns over proposed changes to the School Transport policy, Suffolk County Council has decided to move the process forward and go to public consultation. This was launched on Tuesday 12 December and will run until 28 February 2018. The consultation survey, along with more information on the proposals, can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel.

A number of workshops have been organised, where the proposals will be discussed, and questions answered. You will need to book to attend any of these events. The timetable for these is as follows:

I would strongly urge you to respond to the consultation survey and attend one of the events if possible. If you would like any further information or clarification on the potential impacts of changing the policy, please don't hesitate to contact me. Whilst you may not have children who are impacted by this proposal there is serious concern by neighbouring villages at the possibility of increased cars.

I shall be attending a session at Thurston community college arranged by Helen Wilson.

BUDGET; the council is proposing an increase in general council tax of 2.99% (band D £1,161) and 2% for adult social care (band D £80.64)

I am particularly concerned at the reduction in grant to the CAB and \Trading standards and the inability of the councils to deal with applications for disabled facilities to help people stay in their homes.

The council is borrowing £21million from the Public Loans Board for highways repairs. (hopefully this will work!!)

MID SUFFOLK; all staff and meetings are now held in Ipswich following the administration's decision, which I did not agree with. There is an office in Stowmarket; 54 Ipswich street. Following the resignation of the leader at Babergh the new leader has stated that there will be a referendum in Babergh. I have asked the leader of Mid Suffolk if that means there will be one in MidSuffolk. He said NO! I will be proposing a motion that that takes place.

The boundary review of ward boundaries has been to the Boundary Commission who agree that the Rattlesden ward could include Hesselton to increase the electorate. This still to be confirmed.

COUNCIL TAX; it is proposed to increase by 0.5%

LOCLAITY BUDGET; I still have some money left. Peter has suggested you could use some for the playground equipment , if so I need some figures asap.