

Parish Report –February 2020

Councillor

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2020-21 Budget Proposals

Council Tax

Council Tax is due to increase by 4% in 2020-21 .1.9% of this will be for general council tax, whilst another 2% will be the final increase for the Social Care Precept. This will go to full council n 13th February.

Citizens Advice.

After three years of additional funding, the council expects Citizens Advice to become financially independent and reduce the number from 7 to 4. I have asked why the grant could not be increased.

THURSTON PLANNING APPLICATIONS; I am very concerned that the mid Suffolk planning committee approved 1 and deferred another despite the parish council showing just what a devastating impact the current approvals are having. I am particularly concerned with the apparent lack of consideration of the Neighbour hood plan.

MUD AND CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES ON THE PUBLIC HIGHWAY; once again we have had to report numerous incidents.

IPSWICH NORTHERN ROUTE; the consultation has ended, but as 2 councils have said they are not in favour this will probably not go ahead.

ORWELL BRIDGE; Highways England have released their report and there are suggested to stop the bridge being closed including reduction of speed limit in high wind.

Future bus projects

At a Scrutiny meeting in December, the deputy cabinet member for transport announced that the council was planning to bid for around £20 million from the Department for Transport for an electric bus pilot scheme. If the bid is successful, the council has said that it plans to launch the pilot scheme within 12-18 months in the Bury St Edmunds area.

CYCLING STRATEGY; SC has been looking into cycling provision across Suffolk, and have agreed to develop a 5 year plan.

SUFFOLK HIGHWAYS PERMIT SCHEME; this is a change to to current system. Utilities wanting to use the highway must apply for a permit at a charge. I have been told if they agree to co-ordinate with any highways work need to be done by SCC then they will be offered a discount.

MID SUFFOLK

BUDGET; MI Suffolk are looking at an increase in council tax by 1.66%. Council house rents by 2.7% and a £2 rise in utility charges for sheltered housing tenants

PLANNING; following being told the last planning committee will have approx. 1000 pages I have asked the chief executive to review the way these agendas are decided.

REGAL CINEMA; still negotiating with contractors on the refurbishment and hope to provide 2 screens.

OLD NAT WEST BANK; again, still working with the John Peel centre to make this available from the market square.