

Annual Parish Report – Drinkstone 2024

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Since the election in May 2023, I have been getting more familiar with the Rattlesden Ward parishes, attending parish council meetings with the local councillors and taking a keen interest in the activities and issues they face.

Mid Suffolk District Council had a change of administration in May and has been undergoing its own changes.

The joint local plan has made progression now split into two parts, part one being adopted in November 2023, with part two being consulted on and on track to be adopted early next year.

We were hit with storms in October and November, with many parishes impacted by the resulting flooding. It was heartening to see so much of the community pull together to help those most impacted, and to continue to work together to look at mitigation for the future.

The 'improvements' to A14 have had considerable impacts on Drinkstone and other local parishes, as many vehicles including HGVs have looked to avoid the roadworks and diverted through the country lanes.

Penny Otton and I have been raising the issues the impacts of the roadworks have generated, the destruction of the local roads, potholes unacceptable congestion. We have attended meetings with National Highways, written to Jo Churchill and continually pressed for action.

There has been an agreement from National Highways to financially compensate Suffolk for the additional destruction generated, although it is unclear when the capacity to address all of the problems with the roads will be implemented.

I did not receive any requests from Drinkstone Parish for an award of any Locality Budget, hopefully there will be suitable activities that I can support financially going forward.

Nicky Willshere