

Parish Report – October 2022

Councillor: **PENNY OTTON**

Divisions: THEDWASTRE SH

County Council Details

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For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/healthier/cost-of-living-support/>

Latest SCC COVID information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email:

refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk or ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

The County Mourned for the Death of Her Majesty

Cllrs within our Group attended Proclamations throughout the County. The news of Queen Elizabeth II's passing meant the Council was in a time of mourning. Many meetings, including Cabinet were cancelled. Group members attended ceremonies in their divisions for the funeral.

I attended the service in the cathedral in Bury sr Edmunds

Suffolk in talks to become Investment Zone

Suffolk County Council has let it be known that it has agreed to start discussions with Government to become an investment zone as part of the PM's new growth and investment strategy. Our group has gone on record in the media that we are opposed to the idea since the Government says it wants to remove environmental controls and planning controls within these zones. Since the council began talks, the RSPB, National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts, including Suffolk Wildlife Trust have all described the plans, announced in Kwasi Kwarteng's mini budget, as "an attack on nature".

Open Letter sent by GLI Leader to Conservative Councillors

Cllr Andrew Stringer, our Group Leader, has sent an open letter to all Conservative Councillors at SCC. The letter asks this Council to disassociate itself from the policies outlined by PM Liz Truss and Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng. Cllr Stringer states the government's approach - scrapping planning rules, ripping up environmental protections, and reopening fracking sites - will cause irreversible damage to nature and Net Zero.

Warm Homes Suffolk Fund – Access Free funding and Advice

Suffolk's councils have joined together to establish Warm Homes Suffolk. The service will offer expert advice on reducing energy bills and usage, as well benefits you may be entitled to during this crisis.

The fund is open to homeowners, renters, and landlords and will target homes that need insulating and more efficient heating.

For more information, visit: www.warmhomessuffolk.org, or call 03456 037 686.

Suffolk GLI Respond to Cancelled Taxi Contracts

One of the big stories in the local news has been the increase in taxi companies cancelling SCC contracts to provide school transportation. Young people and children, including those with SEND needs, have once again had their education and development disrupted.

The rise in fuel prices and cost of living has forced many companies to cancel contracts.

SCC Unveils First of their EV Fleet

The first delivery of 16 electric vehicles (EVs) will be in November, as the council begins its program to upgrade all existing pool cars.

This is part of the council's work to deliver on its climate emergency declaration, and ambition to protect and enhance the environment.

The Renault Zoe has been chosen as the first of the new vehicles, with 10 MG ZS to arrive in April 2023. The aim is to completely electrify the fleet by 2024.

EV Charging – Expression of Interests!

SCC have been successful in a bid for funding towards new EV charging infrastructure. The £2.75m funding will focus on community-owned carparks, where charging can be accessed 24/7.

If you wish to express interest and make the Council aware of your area, please contact Peter Frost, Environment Strategy Officer - peter.frost2@suffolk.gov.uk

SUFFOLK LIBRARIES libraries in Suffolk will become a "WARM PLACE". At the friends meeting we were told that hot drinks will be available and space for people to sit.

MIDSUFFOLK

The council now can show it has 10.5 year land supply. The work on the new local plan continues , further information will be sent to the inspector at council this month.

REVIEW OF CIL FUNDS. Some minor amendments to how CIL funds are distributed and agree.

BE A COUNCILLOR EVENT TOOK PLACE ON 29TH SEPTEMBER; anyone thinking they,d like to be a district or parish councillor can attend to find out what is expected and how to go about it.

TREE CANOPY; survey taken place on the trees in midsuffolk and how the council can increase the number.

TREES FOR LIFE; details sent to clerk to be publicised

HELP WITH COST OF LIVING CRISIS; again details sent to clerks for publicity

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