

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR SUSAN GLOSSOP

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting of Lackford Parish Council on the 14th May 2018

Committees on which I serve

Joint officer appeals -substitute
Democratic renewal working party
Development control
Grant working party
Licensing and regulatory committee
Overview and scrutiny - Vice chair
Performance and audit -substitute

Outside bodies

Suffolk County Council Our Greenest board
West Stow Anglo Saxon Village Trust

Attendance record for Council meetings
77% with 3 absences = 23% due to holiday

Locality budget

I have a budget of £2,500 each financial year, please contact me if you have a scheme that requires funding. These are the projects which were assisted this year

Lackford Parish council	Vehicle activation sign	£500
Flempton Parish council	Community Christmas carols event on the Green	440
Ingham Parish council	Vehicle activation sign	500
Ingham Community group	Heating system in the church which is used as a community centre	500
West Stow Fisheries	Funding towards equipment for training and information days	600

Council Tax

St Edmundsbury Council have set a freeze on Council tax for 2018/2019 at £182.16 for band D properties.

The parish councils have set their own council tax requirements for 2018.19 with an average band D parish council tax of £60.83

Suffolk County Council has set its precept at £43,341,465.01 resulting in a band D council tax of £1,242.54 a 4.99% increase including 3% for adult social care

Suffolk Police Authority set its precept of £6,890,221.18 resulting in a band D council tax of £188.82 a 6.8% increase on the 2017/18 figure of £176.85

Proportions of the Council Tax bill will be

Suffolk County Council 74.21%

St Edmundsbury Borough Council 10.88%

Suffolk Police Authority 1.28%

Parish/Town Councils 3.63%

Planning Applications

On a much smaller scale, but possibly of more importance to residents of Lackford several individual planning applications have been made. The majority of the applications have been approved enabling people to build extensions or make alterations to their property. Not all applications go smoothly however, and I would strongly advise people wanting to put in an application to talk to the Parish Council who make comments pertinent to each application. In addition it is worth having some pre-application advice from Planning Officers. I am also readily available to discuss any individual plans with anyone in the village and I frequently act as a go-between between resident and Planning Officer to try to resolve any problems on an informal basis.

Attached is a spreadsheet listing the Lackford planning applications and decisions for the year

Garden Waste Collection

This will be the third year of the service and we currently have around 30,000 customers who have paid using a variety of methods.

In the Risby ward the take up of brown bins in 2016/17 = 56.3% 2017/18 = 56% 2018/19 = 52.9%

- A little over 9000 customers pay by direct debit and will receive an automatic email warning them that the subscription is soon to be taken from their account.

We have email addresses for a further 12,000 customers and will be sending them a message with a link to sign up for the next year.

Our focus at this stage is to retain our current customers and encourage those not using it to move to direct debit. Here is the link for signing up on line: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/gardenwaste

New West Suffolk Council

Following the consultation into the proposed options for the new warding which will come into force in May 2019 with of St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath merging into one council, both councils voted to send all the options to the Local Government Boundary Commission who will make the final decision after carrying out their own consultation in the summer. **It is important that all parish councils and residents send in their comments to the boundary commission when they consult even if you like their proposal for your ward, the Boundary Commission have made it clear they wish to receive all comments whether for or against.**

Civil Parking Enforcement

The secretary of State has not signed this order as yet due to the pressure of work caused by Brexit

Agreement has been reached between the Police, SCC, St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath that St Eds and Forest Heath will take on the role of control of street parking as will Mid Suffolk District Council. It should run at a surplus but more importantly enable control of parking issues in conjunction with our off street parking operations. This will enable St Eds to keep all on street income. The period will be from 2019 -2029 and the proposal has to go to the Secretary of State for approval.

Suffolk Business Park

Construction will start in May for the first two warehouses on the business park following an agreement between the developer Jaynic and PGIM Real Estates. This is a £13 million contract for two units of 206,491sq ft. and 147,241sq ft. on the 19 acre site. The buildings will open in November and

this will provide opportunities for existing businesses looking to expand and for businesses outside the area wishing to relocate. This will also create new jobs.

Town Centre Master plan

Work has started on drawing up plans with a £8.4 million scheme to redevelop the Post office building which could see the redevelopment providing retaining the historic Victorian façade and the rear of the building developed into retail with 12 apartments above and the link between market place and the Arc being widened with new shop fronts onto St Andrews Street. There will be a public exhibition of the proposed plans later in the year

The new Housing Act

Came into effect on 3 April 2018, extends the Council's prevention duties to include everyone, rather than being based on priority need or intentionality. Last year the Housing Team helped assist and prevent more than 500 households from becoming homeless. As part of the Act, tailored support is developed in the form of a personal housing plan that looks into the issues behind why someone is at risk of becoming homeless, the support that will be offered and agrees the expectations on the individual's behaviour and actions. We have recruited two more outreach workers to the Housing Team. Helping people who are homeless and perhaps rough sleeping isn't as simple as finding them a room and a bed. Many need additional help in order to turn their lives around and to keep whatever accommodation they have been placed in. That is why one of our new outreach workers specialises in getting people with drug and alcohol issues the support that they need. The Council will need access to a larger pool of temporary housing, private as well as social housing – and we are keen to work with landlords to help meet this need. We have invested £45,000 to gain the use of a 12-bedroom hostel and flats in Bury St Edmunds, bringing the number of temporary beds available in Bury St Edmunds to 40 and across West Suffolk to 70. The funding will go towards the 24-hours-a-day cost of support staff to run the temporary accommodation. We are looking for more opportunities to boost the amount of temporary accommodation and calling for private landlords to get in touch so we can discuss how we can support them in providing housing for those who need it.

Rogue Landlords

We value the role played by private sector landlords and the recommendations we will be considering later, to approve the necessary delegations relevant to a new policy recently adopted by Cabinet, will allow us to use civil sanctions in the rare cases of a rogue landlord. These sanctions have been developed in consultation with the vast majority of respected landlords who provide safe and healthy homes. Rogue landlords endanger the health and wellbeing of their tenants, but tenants have an important role to play in terms of knowing their rights and working with their landlords. In developing the policy, we have worked with neighbouring councils, the Landlords Association and tenants themselves to understand the issues and raise awareness of the role of our Public Health and Housing Service in preventing bad practice.

I have enjoyed working with the parish council and the residents of Lackford over the last year. On the whole many of the local issues are the responsibility of Suffolk County Council. In the main highway maintenance and the diversions of traffic from October through to February off the A14 along the A1101 at night.

Issues raised

Pot holes

Fly tipping

Speeding traffic through the villages

Rural bus service

Maintenance of public rights of way
Dog fouling

Cllr Susan Glossop

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