

County Council Report for Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council

November 2017

By County Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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Council Tax – The Council’s 2018/19 budget proposals include a 1.99 per cent council tax increase following a seven-year freeze, the 3% Social Care Precept will continue for that year also. This implies band D will pay £1.14 per week additional cost and Band B (majority of properties in Suffolk) 88p per week due to the tax increase. The budget will be agreed next February.

Suffolk & Essex Rail Conference – Last Friday Suffolk County Council hosted this conference in Ipswich. Speakers representing Network Rail, Greater Anglia Franchise and Port of Felixstowe gave their commitment to rail improvements and explained some key projects needed to add passenger and freight capacity.

Highways. Re communications, a Scrutiny Task & Finish Group will look at:

- communications about highways matter;
- mechanisms for managing customer expectations in relation to highways services
- automated responses on the highways reporting system and how these could be improved;
- Suffolk Highways planning for winter 2017/18.

I will raise the points made previously about roadworks signage then.

Reminder to use the website for reporting; please contact me if you have difficulties:–

<http://highwaysreporting.suffok.gov.uk>



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Move to Endeavour House – Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings and most staff have moved to Endeavour House as of 6th November. Public access is available at 54 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket:

Mid Suffolk & Babergh - Members of the cabinets of Babergh and Mid Suffolk met together for the first time and voted in principal in support of the merger and to start a consultation exercise. . This is in the context of mergers on either side to form East Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils. Public engagement will follow pending agreement on the approach to be adopted to the consultation process but this is not likely to include a referendum.

Council Tax Reduction Access, Consultation – Mid Suffolk is proposing to streamline methods for accessing the Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit schemes. The changes take into account introduction of Universal Credit. Comments on proposals are due by 27th November. To take part in the consultation visit:

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-reduction-scheme-have-your-say>

Planning Applications – Dates for determination remain to be decided for both Newhall Properties, Outline for 62 dwellings. 1352/17, and Evolution Town Planning, Land opposite Broad Meadows, Outline for 22 dwellings. DC/17/02783. SCC Highways has commented on recent re-submissions from both applicants and would support a 'hybrid' footpath link with details to be determined at reserve matters stage.

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