



County Council Report for Walsham-Willows Parish Council

February 2018

By County Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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School Transport Consultation– Reminder that consultation about possible changes to school transport provision ends on 28th February. Views are sought on options for both the pre-and post-16 age groups. Please refer to: www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel

Council Tax – Suffolk County Council has approved an increase in general council tax for 2018/ 2019 of 2.99% (of Band D annual tax) which is the max allowable without referendum. The National Adult Care Precept will be increased by 2% and is ring-fenced for social care. The agreed budget includes spending reductions across directorates of approximately £23m.

Business Rate Retention Pilot – Starting in 2018/ 2019 Suffolk County Council (along with other councils within the Suffolk pool) will retain a higher proportion of business rates and in return forgo equivalent funding from revenue support and rural services delivery grants on assurance of no overall detriment. Rates are collected by district councils and boroughs.

Highways – The Parish may have received a survey from the County Council Highways about 'Community Self Help' (devolving certain tasks to parishes) to gauge interest in this topic. If you have not received this please let me know, similarly if you have any questions about it.



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Public Access—Public access is available at 54 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket. Please note that it is best to ring ahead to ensure that someone is there who has the expertise to assist, 0300-123-4000.

Boundary Review Delayed – The Boundary Commission review was expected to have been completed now, but has been postponed in Mid—Suffolk & Babergh figures. A decision is expected this month but may be too late to reflect changes in ward boundaries for the 2019 district elections.

Council ‘Merger’ - The current administrations of both Babergh and Mid-Suffolk support dissolving to become a new ‘Heart of Suffolk’ council, but this now depends on a referendum to be held in Babergh where a previous 2011 poll resulted in 61 per cent of residents voting against a merger. (A majority of Mid Suffolk residents voted for a merger at that time.)

Room Rent for Homeless – An empty room can be made available to a homeless person under a new scheme supported by the Districts and Solo Housing which help match the parties. If you have a room available, or know a single person looking for suitable lodgings, contact 0800 652 0155.

Planning Applications – The two applications on Wattisfield Road are scheduled for Committee A on 14th March, that is for Newhall Properties Outline for 60 dwellings 1352/17, and Evolution Town Planning Land opposite Broad Meadows Outline for 22 dwellings DC/17/02783. County Highways has recommended that details of proposals for footpath access may be agreed as a condition and has removed its objection.

Re. Moriarty’s Cafe Amended, DC/17/05865, temporary (1-year) permission is being considered under the reduced-hours proposal.

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