



County Council Report for Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council

August 2018

By County Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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New Grit Bin Policy - Suffolk Highways has reviewed grit bin and grit heap provision. Details of how the new system will operate are being sent to parish/town/borough and district councils later this week. Grit heaps will no longer be restocked due to pollution concerns. Any parish/town which has a grit heap is encouraged to apply for a new grit bin in line with the guidance.

Recycling Sites to be Replaced - The existing Ipswich and Stowmarket sites are severely constrained with limited expansion opportunities. £1m has been earmarked for a replacement site. Designs and a planning application will be drawn with the aim of securing land. Construction is expected to get underway in 2019/20.

Suffolk Fire Risk - Firefighters and on-call teams have been very busy as extreme weather continues, despite some welcome breaks. The team received over 60 calls over a single July weekend, more than double normal. As dry weather returns the public is urged to be fire aware, use common sense and put all combustibles and ignition sources out or under control (cigarettes, camp fires, matches, hot machinery etc.)

Local Meeting with MP – This took place in Wattisfield Community Hall on 13th August and was well attended by local residents from several parishes. Topics raised included:

- cost of car parking at West Suffolk Hospital and difficulties getting to the hospital (and elsewhere) with limited regular bus service; people may not be aware but there is a parking exemption available from the Hospital for those who require regular treatments. Community transport can fill in for local bus services - Connecting Communities phone 01449-614271 or Rickingham Botesdale Good Neighbour Scheme 01379 890088
- planning and in particular the recent approved development on Wattisfield Rd, Walsham which is considered unsuitable for additional traffic, lack of infrastructure to support new development and how this could be funded
- highways services and local control of hedge and verge cutting, would be preferable for the Parish Council to organise these with Co Council support
- taking care of older people in communities to avoid care homes, could financial incentives be offered to families to do more rather than assign to social care system



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District Ward Boundary Changes - The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published its final recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Mid Suffolk District Council. Walsham will be represented by one district councillor along with Badwell Ash, Gt Ashfield and Wattisfield. Refer to the LGBC website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/mid-suffolk

Revised National Planning Policy Framework – issued on 24th July and replaces the 2012 version along with a new Housing Delivery Test practice guide
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

All 50 practice guides can be access on <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

Mid Suffolk & Babergh 5-year Housing Land Supply Achieved - As of Wednesday 11th July, the Council can demonstrate enough deliverable land to meet the number of homes needed over 5 years to meet 'housing need'. The Council has been unable to demonstrate this land supply since April 2016, but the annual monitoring report now shows the updated position. [Further information can be found in our press release](#). The revised NPPF contains new criteria for demonstrating 5-year supply including a delivery test, which the District believes that it can also meet.

Planning decision notices issued AFTER the 11th July that rely on lack of 5-year supply policies for approval may be subject to review. (Note that the 60-dwelling development on Wattisfield Rd was decided on 5th July.)

Joint Local Plan - the Joint Local Plan timetable was approved at Mid Suffolk's July Council meeting, there will be a further 'Regulation '18 public consultation in early January 2019 with submission of a 'Regulation 19' document in the Spring / Summer 2019. A link to the papers appears below, see agenda item 11.

<https://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=1286&Ver=4>

Joint Housing Strategy Consultation – reminder - the Joint Housing Strategy consultation will run from Friday 21st September – Friday 1st November inclusive. The Housing Strategy for Mid Suffolk can be viewed on: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/housing-strategy/>

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