



## County Council Report for Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council

September 2018

By County Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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**Local Meeting with MP** – This took place in Wattisfield Community Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> August for the benefit of surrounding parishes including Walsham, it was well attended. 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 Rickinghall 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 responsibility to social care system.

**Suffolk Tourism has a Good Summer** – Tourism has seen its biggest boom for a decade with the visitor economy reaching £2 billion for the first time. The number of jobs in this sector rose by 6 per cent to 42,428 – i.e. 13.6 per cent of all employment in Suffolk is in the tourism sector.

**Listening Events** - Suffolk residents are invited to come and meet the Leader of the Council, other county councillors and senior managers about their concerns and ideas for the County of Suffolk. The following events are scheduled from 11.00 – 1.00 pm for the remainder of 2018:

- **Framlingham:** Tuesday 18 September
- **Bury St Edmunds, Arc Shopping Centre,** 2.00 -4.00 pm: Wednesday 26 September
- **Haverhill:** Friday 12 October
- **Ipswich:** Thursday 25 October



## **Mid Suffolk District Council Report for Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council**

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**Change in Senior Leadership Team at Mid Suffolk** - Tom Barker will continue to have responsibilities for Planning, but given its importance, a new interim position of Chief Planner is being created that will report to Tom. The Communities functions will also move across to Tom.

**Parking Enforcement to Transfer to District Councils next year** – As part of the transfer of enforcement responsibility from the Police to Local Authorities, Traffic Regulation Orders will be issued for each of the 6 Suffolk districts. Existing local parking restrictions need to be checked to ensure they are valid, Parish Council will (or already have) been contacted separately. Enforcement in Mid Suffolk and Babergh will be undertaken by West Suffolk (the merging of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council) and Ipswich Borough Councils. In the Walsham area it will be West Suffolk Council.

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