

County Councillor Report



December 2021

Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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Public Health Report 2021 – One of the Director of Public Health’s responsibilities is to produce an annual public health report for Suffolk and the 2021 report has just been published. One of the key themes of this report is improving mental health. Refer to: www.healthysuffolk.org.uk

Children & Young People’s Services and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) - SCC is the Corporate Parent for about 90 UASC (under the age of 18), and a further 124 Care Leavers/ former UASC now over 18. The majority of current UASC are Afghani, reflecting the turmoil that this country is facing. UASC may arrive spontaneously (e.g. lorries) or via the National Transfer Scheme where all local authorities across the country take UASC from other regions. Where possible, SCC seeks to accommodate UASCs from the same country together. Assistance is also available through the charity Suffolk Refugee Support <https://suffolkrefugee.org.uk/>

Avian Flu - An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) including housing measures is in force across the UK as of 29th November, refer to Defra’s [avian influenza guidance](#) for more information. Birds should be kept indoors, or where impractical, take steps to separate them from contact with wild birds. There have been outbreaks in Essex (near Frinton-on-Sea and Maldon) and Norfolk (near Wells-next-the-Sea). The situation is being monitored locally by Suffolk Trading Standards.

Preparing for the next Budget - Consultation: A proposed budget will be presented to Scrutiny, then to Cabinet and will be debated at Full Council on 17 February. The Council will consider whether to raise Council Tax by 2% and the Adult Social Care Precept by 2%, but there are unusual challenges due to COVID-19, global supply chain issues and climate change. Residents’ views are sought to help prioritise service spending - [More information about the council’s finances and the consultation can be found at suffolk.gov.uk/budget2022](#) The consultation closes on Monday 20 December 2021.

Greenest County Awards held on 12th November at The Hold, Ipswich –This year’s award categories included biodiversity and landscape, business, community, schools, waste and recycling. Winners included a food recycling company, a nature reserve and the County’s Tree Warden Network. The winners can be found here: [Suffolk’s Greenest County Awards Winners Announced](#)

Covid Vaccination and Booster Service – Information about the Suffolk and NE Essex services for Covid vaccinations and boosters can be found on: <https://sneevaccine.org.uk/> Walk in clinics offering the booster are listed on the web site, or contact the Patient Helpline - [0344 257 3961](tel:03442573961)

Increased Covid precautions have been introduced in response to the new Omicron variant. Face coverings are again compulsory on public transport and most public places.