

County Councillor Report



February 2022

Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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'Levelling Up' – The Government has announced that Suffolk is to be included in its levelling up initiative. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-levelling-up-plan-that-will-transform-uk> The first 9 areas invited to begin negotiations will be Cornwall, Derbyshire & Derby, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, Durham, Hull & East Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire & Nottingham, and Suffolk."

The Queen's Jubilee - Plans are in place this year for a Festival of Suffolk with many community events planned. Details can be found at: www.festivalofsuffolk.org/. A Big Jubilee Lunch is planned on Sunday 5 June and people are encouraged to host a street party or gather with neighbours. SCC will waive fees for road closures on this day and offer free assistance with traffic management for all applications received before 11pm on Sunday 27 March. www.suffolk.gov.uk/PlatinumJubileeEvent

Budget Progress - Suffolk County Council has outlined how it plans to focus resources in 2022/23. Under the proposals, the 2022-23 budget would rise by 4.5% (from £598.2 to £625.4m). The additional money would come from a 2.99% increase in Council Tax (including 1% dedicated social care precept), and an increase in grants received from the Government. The proposals were considered at the January scrutiny meeting and cabinet, then to full council in February.

LED Street Light Replacement - On December 17th Suffolk's LED replacement programme had reached 10,000 LEDs. Bouygues Energies & Services, the lead contractor aims to replace all 43,400 streetlights in the County (including parish and district council lights) by the end of 2022.

New LED streetlights are dimmable and the timing adjustable in response to local/ parish requests. Suffolk is leading the country in introducing technology that enables lights to be dimmed when traffic levels reduce at the end of the day, and is aware of sensitivity concerns over this form of light. Early engagement with planning is recommended.

Please note that there are now licensing and testing requirements for any apparatus to be hung from a street lamp, current details are on the Suffolk County Council website: [Attachments to street lighting columns or electrical installations on or over the highway licence | Suffolk County Council](#)

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/>

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