

## County Councillor Report

March 2023



### Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division Tel. 07714-597980 [Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk)

**New Highways Contract Awarded** - Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, has been awarded Suffolk's new highways services contract, which will begin on 1 October 2023 for up to 20 years. Following an extensive procurement exercise. The new partnership is worth around £800 million - £1 billion and will deliver highway projects and improvements across Suffolk, including maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing and gritting. Street lighting is awarded separately.

**Secondary School Places** – This year, we received 8,083 applications from parents and carers by the closing date for admission into Year 7 in September 2023, over 300 more applications than last year. Of these: 93% (7,521) of applicants received offers for their first preference school; and 98% (7,903) of applicants received an offer for one of their three preferred schools.

**Suffolk County Council Funded School Travel** - The School Travel Policy can be found at [www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel). The Passenger Transport Team has details of students starting high school in September and eligibility for funded school travel and will let parents know by the end of March 2023 to confirm eligibility and opt-in options for funded school travel. Any parents who may not have heard but think their child to be eligible should contact us on 0345 606 6173.

For advice on admissions, admission appeals or SCC funded school travel please contact us on the following numbers: Admissions: Angela Davey on 01473 260978, Jasmine Eastwood on 01473 260070, or Jan Scott on 01473 264657.

**Budget for 2023/24 Approved** - The £687.6m package was approved at a Full Council meeting on Thursday 9 February 2023. In an online survey, Suffolk residents would like to see more spent on adult services and children's services, and these areas will receive an additional £35.7m and £13.5m, respectively. The 9.6% increase will be funded by a 3.99% increase in Council Tax (1.99% general tax and 2.00% adult social care).

**West Suffolk Archives to move** – Cabinet has approved moving the West Suffolk Archives from its present site on Raingate St. to West Suffolk Council's new development at Western Way in Bury St Edmunds in autumn 2025. The move follows consultation and assessment of several options, it will increase accessibility and storage, and improve links with W. Suffolk College.

**Highway Closure Fees Waived for Coronation Events** - Similarly, to the late Queens Platinum Jubilee, if you are looking to organise a street party as a group of residents or a local authority, for an event in a public space, such as a park, road closure fees are being waived. Please apply by 2<sup>nd</sup> April. You can view more information at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/Kings-coronation](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/Kings-coronation)