

## County Councillor Report

June 2023



### Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council

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**Energy Infrastructure Policy Revision** – At its May meeting SCC Cabinet approved updates to the county’s EIP. The main changes from the 2021 policy include expanding the scope to include water infrastructure projects, enabling full cost recovery from promoters through Planning Performance Agreements, and renaming it to ‘Energy and Climate Adaptive Infrastructure Policy’. SCC recognises that securing water resources for future residential, agricultural and commercial users and safeguarding aquifers are key responsibilities and significant additional infrastructure will be needed. Refer to [https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(16-05-2023\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(16-05-2023),%20The%20Cabinet)

**Street Lighting Services Procurement** – In contrast to the present contract with Kier which ends in September, the new contract with Milestone for future highways services does not include street lighting. It was decided back in 2021 that a separate contract should be tendered with a private sector service provider to be selected from a shortlist during June 2023. Its services will also commence on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

**Library Services Contract Support and Re-tender** – The current 10-year contract with Suffolk Libraries comes to an end in July 2024. Preparations are underway to prepare for a tender process and new provider/ partner. To ensure that the library services are supported over the coming year the council is covering current cost pressures due to inflation so that current services continue at their present levels. Suffolk has 45 libraries and four mobile libraries.

**E-Scooter Safety** – Suffolk Trading Standards Imports Surveillance team has detained over 13,000 e-scooters and e-bikes at Felixstowe Port over the past year which did not meet safety testing standards, a further 9,000 were refused entry. Officers found that batteries and chargers were substandard and posed a serious risk of fire or electric shock. Most product consignments entering the UK originate from China. Anyone who suspects their e-scooter or other battery powered mobility device should stop using it immediately and contact Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133.

Private e-scooters are banned on public highways and pavements and all are banned on most railways including Greater Anglia. E-bikes are categorised differently and are not currently banned.

**Suffolk Day June 21<sup>st</sup> and Suffolk Constabulary Museum** – Historic policing artifacts will be on display for the public, such as the cudgel used by John Ducker to murder Police Constable Ebenezer Tye at Halesworth in 1862. The museum at Police Headquarters in Martlesham will be open from 5.00 – 8.00 pm, book a slot via [museum@suffolk.police.uk](mailto:museum@suffolk.police.uk)

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