

County Councillor Report



Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council, October 2023

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Flood Recovery - Staff from local authorities and other organisations, co-ordinated by the Joint Emergency Planning Unit, have been working on responses across the county. For many households this is a long and difficult process. Please refer to the following page on our website: [Flood Recovery information for Suffolk - Suffolk County Council](#). Flooding problem areas and blocked drains should be reported on the Suffolk Highways reporting web site preferably with a photograph: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

Suffolk County Council is designated as Lead Local Flood Authority, and has a duty to collect information and undertake investigations into “significant” flood events.

Consultation - Council Budget - Suffolk County Council seeks views from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities, as it decides on its 2024/25 budget this January. [An online consultation](#) has been launched about the budget and on council tax. Please do participate.

Consultation – Suffolk Libraries – a 13-week two-part consultation is open until **Friday 26 January 2024**. A competitive Tender Process will follow with a new contract awarded in November 2024. A key focus in part two is the council’s Library Outreach services and the future of the three mobile library vehicles which are old and would need replacing. These serve at least 500 stops across rural Suffolk each month and consideration needs to be given to whether or how to replace them. Outreach services also include Pop-up Libraries and a home library service run by local volunteers. Please do respond to this consultation if you value the current services, particularly Outreach Services in rural areas – respond on: <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/about/news/suffolk-county-councils-library-consultation-process>

Survey – Special Needs and Disabilities Services – The Council is currently undergoing an inspection of its SEND services by Ofsted, as part of this inspection users of the service are encouraged to give feedback through a survey which closes on 7th November a 9.00 am. <https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/p/AreaSend/10284398>

Bus Service Improvements - £3.6million is available over the next two years for enhancements to the current passenger transport network. Some of this goes to bus companies to support existing services, and some into design work on Bus Priority schemes. Parishes have been invited to participate in BSIP meetings to discuss investment, the next being 14th November. Refer to: [Suffolk on Board - News / Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus: Where should the money be spent?](#)

Highways Signage – This is a good time to report missing or damaged road signs as they are being reviewed. Please report with photographs on the Highways reporting tool along with a photograph: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

Pylons Project – It has been noted that exploratory drilling has already been initiated in the Upper Waveney Valley area and Wortham Ling SSSI at potential pylon locations. I have raised this with senior officers at SCC and with our MP.

Large Scale Solar Energy Developments – SCC Cabinet Member Richard Rout has written to ministers objecting to the large land-take demanded by land based solar. Cllr Rout’s letter can be found at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/suffolk-cc-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-very-large-scale-solar-farms-24-10-23-redacted.pdf>

An example of a potential large-scale array is the **Yaxley Green Energy Centre** about 450MW of PV Solar array and Battery storage. <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/14437282> (<https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/14437282>)

A list of Ethos Energy potential projects is at: <https://ethosenergysolutions.com/projects/>

The Government Network Review - underpins targets for offshore wind, solar and new infrastructure; it assumes a 70% increase in demand by 2050 due to growth, electrification (EVs, heating/ cooling), and desalination. Targets include solar capacity increasing from 14.5 to 70GW by 2035 and wind from 14 to 50 GW by 2030. A Senior Research Associate at Aurora Energy said Britain would have to build as much offshore wind capacity between 2028 and 2030 as it is set to build from 2000 to 2027 to meet the 50 GW target. These targets do not take into account the actual output factors for solar and wind, which for solar are around 14.5%, and wind closer to 30% nor the necessary power distribution infrastructure.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offshore-transmission-network-review/offshore-transmission-network-review-summary-of-outputs#the-offshore-transmission-network-review-conception-objective-and-approach>

Shepherd’s Grove, Stanton – Jaynic and Equation Developments – Nothing new to report

Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk
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