

County Councillor Report



Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council, February 2024

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division. Tel. 07714-597980 Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk

Flood Recovery – The Floods team is in the processing of assessing flood reports received during Storm Babet. Section 19 of the [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#) requires that councils investigate significant flooding. Locations where the council will be undertaking flood investigations follows: www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/storm-babet

Stowlangtoft Bridge on the A1088 – this bridge currently has a 7.5T weight limit and is awaiting reconstruction anticipated in about May or June. At that time the A1088 will be closed to all traffic for about 3 months between Ixworth and Stowlangtoft. Highways England has asked that the bridge repairs wait until the major works on the A14 are completed. A A1088 Reference Group has been set up including local County Councillors, parishes and officers. Based on interest at the last meeting I have asked that Walsham be invited to participate in the next meeting which will be on Monday 26th February at Ixworth Firestation. An invitation to Walsham will follow.

Suffolk Highways Report 00449827 Request for Chevron Bend Warning Sign – I have raised this with our local engineer who will look at the location shortly.

Major Planning: Request for a Scoping Opinion - Construction of a 15-ha reservoir and associated pipeline. The Street Brome and Oakley Part In The Parishes Of Yaxley, Eye & Hoxne. DC/24/00515.

Request for a Scoping Opinion - Phase 2 processing factory (circa 31,000m²) and a new mill building DC/24/00513. Eye Airfield Business Park (Cranswick) Eye in the Parish of Yaxley.

Scrutiny of Water Resources - On **Tuesday 12 March** the County Council's Scrutiny Committee will consider the availability of water in Suffolk including water supply to domestic and commercial premises and impacts on agriculture. The meeting will take place **at 10:00 am in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, Ipswich** and will be streamed live with a recording available later. The public is welcome to attend.

Budget Setting – the Council cabinet has agreed its draft budget for 2024/'25, final approval will take place at full council on 15th February. The budget must respond to cost pressures from inflation and increased service demand and some difficult decisions have been necessary.

SEND Services – Suffolk's SEND services are provided through a Local Area Partnership which includes both Suffolk County Council and its NHS health service partners. An inspection was carried out jointly for the first time by both Ofsted and the CQC (Care Quality Commission). Results are critical of how the service is delivered – refer to: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50238584>

Cabinet Member Changes - cabinet member Cllr Andrew Reid becomes cabinet member for SEND and Education. Cabinet member Cllr Bobby Bennett has been appointed cabinet member for Childrens and Young Peoples services. Two deputy cabinet members have been promoted to

cabinet roles – Cllr Philip Faircloth-Mutton is now cabinet member for equality and communities and Cllr Craig Rivett is cabinet member for public health and public protection.

Older Homes Retrofit Conference - will be held on the afternoon of 6th March to offer advice, information about grants and loans, and case studies around increasing energy efficiency in older homes. This will take place at The Hold, Ipswich. The conference is open to Suffolk homeowners, landlords and building professionals. A session on damp and mould is scheduled in the morning. Tickets for both sessions including complimentary lunch can be booked at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/focus-on-damp-and-mould-and-retrofit-solutions-conference-tickets-779711677617>

Progress with West Suffolk Hospital – the Health Scrutiny Committee at its January meeting received an update on progress with the new West Suffolk Hospital building scheduled to open in 2030. Currently archaeological assessment is underway with trial trenching on the Hardwick Manor site, there have been some minor finds of archaeological interest.

Locality and Community Grants – My locality budget still has some funds, please ask if there are local projects which could benefit. Enquiries to the County Council concerning grants for community projects such as for the village hall may be made to Community Information Project Officer, Public Health and Communities. Phone no. 07860-832328, or emma.currie@suffolk.gov.uk

Highways – Reminder to please report any defective road signs or other defects with a photograph. All highways and flood issues should be reported on the web site: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk
Tel: 07714-597980 Twitter: @jesstfleming