

County Councillor Report



Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council, March 2024

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Budget Setting – the County Council agreed its budget for 2024/'25 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) last November, the report has been recently issued and is critical of how the service is delivered – refer to: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50238584>

Consultation on Devolution Proposals - A 10-week public consultation on our proposed devolution deal with the Government will run from 18th March until 26th May. The consultation will be available through our website www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution and social media. There will also be media coverage highlighting the consultation.

Shepherd's Grove – Jaynic DC/22/2190/HYB - On 8th March West Suffolk's development control committee considered this application and were minded to refuse (10 votes for, three against, one abstention), contrary to the officer's recommendation for approval. It has been effectively deferred until a risk assessment is completed, when it will return to the council for a final decision.

Shepherd's Grove - Evolution Warehousing DC/23/1154/OUT – pending a decision including implications of a final decision on Jaynic's proposal.

Brome Reservoir, near Eye - Request for a Scoping Opinion (EIA) - 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. The reservoir would supply water for expansion /Phase 2 of Cranswick's chicken processing factory (circa 31,000m²) and new mill building DC/24/00513. Eye Airfield Business Park (Cranswick) Eye in the Parish of Yaxley.

Connection Offer Extended by Electricity Supply Operator and National Grid – a 2-Step connection offer for renewables has been granted extra time by Ofgem due in part to the large number of connection applications by wind and solar providers. <https://www.current-news.co.uk/ofgem-disappointed-but-approves-grid-connection-process-delay/> The two steps are:

1. Providing a connecting party with an interim offer, a position within the Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC), a point of connection and the latest year that it will be connected by.
2. The connecting party received all the details it usually would as part of a connection offer to be issued before 1 March 2024

Also it is acknowledged that ESO's regional connection strategy needs further consideration (in terms of land connection and transmission); the implications if any for Norwich to Tilbury pylons are as yet unknown. National Grid remains committed to public consultation in summer 2024.

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