

# District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows Parish Council

March 2024

<b>Rural Transport Grants</b>	<p>A new rural transport grants scheme has just been launched to help provide passenger transport options across the district. Existing community transport operators can apply for funding before 15<sup>th</sup> April. More details are available here: <a href="https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/rural-transport-grants-scheme">https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/rural-transport-grants-scheme</a>.</p>
<b>Jopint Local Plan Part 2</b>	<p>All parish and town councils across both districts have all been invited to complete a questionnaire about the services and facilities present in each area. This information is needed to prepare the next phase of the Joint Local Plan.</p>
<b>Energy efficiency grants</b>	<p>Funding is available to help residents with the cost of installing loft insulation, in partnership with Travis Perkins. There are four product options available and residents will receive a 50% discount off their purchase (up to £200), with free delivery.</p> <p>According to The Energy Saving Trust, it is estimated that an uninsulated home loses a quarter of its heat through its roof. Correctly installed insulation should pay for itself many times over in its 40-year lifetime. More details can be found at the Green Suffolk website <a href="https://www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/grants/">https://www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/grants/</a>.</p> <p>A free event about making older properties more energy efficient is to take place at The Hold in Ipswich on 6<sup>th</sup> March. More details available here: <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/safe-suffolk-renters-retrofit-solutions-conference-march-2024">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/safe-suffolk-renters-retrofit-solutions-conference-march-2024</a>.</p>
<b>Tree Cover</b>	<p>SCC has secured over £200K from the Government's local authority Treescapes Fund for over 1500 new trees in a bid on behalf of all Suffolk councils, including MSDC. The funding will go toward planting as well as maintaining the trees.</p>
<b>DC/22/2190/HYB Hybrid planning application – Jaynic ex Copart application</b>	<p>This came before the West Suffolk Planning Committee on 6/3/2024 and the Committee was "minded to reject" i.e. if nothing changes refuse it!</p> <p>This is subject to legal review of the risks of refusal in relation to the planning inspectorate.</p> <p>The application may well come before a future planning committee again with a number of different variables in play but good news for now!</p> <p>I am complaining to Mid Suffolk planning that our concerns seem to have been given no weight.</p>
<b>Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)</b>	<p>We carried out a (another) review of what would be required to create the footpath from the Six Bells to the Sports Club. This requires further clarification from Highways as regards the areas where pavement would be required and additional liaison with landowners.</p> <p>The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is important as you can't get grant funding for improvements if the route is not on the plan.</p>

At the moment we have:

**Walsham Le Willows: Summer Road** - Desire for a safe and segregated walking path to sports club (as mentioned above)

**Walsham Le Willows: Palmer Street** - Desire for a safe and segregated walking path through/to village

**Walsham Le Willows to Ixworth** - Desire for pavement provision, currently none. Based on the feedback from consultation I am suggesting this be changed to a foot path between West Street and Walsham Le Willows.

There seems to be some confusion about the planned path between **the Sports Club and Wattisfield Road / Street by Clarkes**. This is being referred to as Palmer Street!. I am trying to get this clarified but we are likely to end up with this being added to the LCWIP.

I would also like to add the footpath between Walsham and Badwell Ash as a longer term objective but there has been no consultation on this.

Cllr Richard Winch

[richard.winch@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:richard.winch@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

07931 709486