

Thorndon Parish Council 5.11.2012
County Councillor Report

Broadband

The preferred bidder for the Broadband infrastructure investment has been agreed, the county council had invited expressions of interest in bidding for this work last summer, and two bidders came forward (BT & Fugitsu) early last month Fugitsu pulled out leaving only one bidder BT, the county council are currently reviewing with Bt any obstacles that may exist within the current network, that might delay this roll out if we did sign any contract with BT This investment should deliver everyone a 2 meg platform by 2015 with this upgrading to 20 meg by 2020.

Review of County Farms

The County Council is currently looking into the future of County Farms, currently the county council owns and rents out 12,800 acres of farmland 170 acres of ancient woodland, 85 farms with buildings and houses etc, with a total of 97 tenant farmers making use of this resource. Over the last decade not one new tenant has gained access to our land and we have been selling off (consolidating) over £1,000,000 worth of land a year. I have been working on this panel and have gained agreement that in the future our land holding will be published and any individual or organisation can express interest in utilising some or all of our land to further agriculture and stimulate rural business. Final approval for the new policy should happen in January.

Fire Service Merger ?

The County Council have been looking into Developing a Joint Business Case for Collaborative Working between Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Services. This has led to the proposal to look into merging the 2 fire services; we need to look at this seriously, as our current Suffolk Fire Service has one the least costs per head of population, than any other in the country. The potential for savings are therefore much harder to find.

Care Homes Sell To Be Scrutinised

You may have already read in the media, that the county council is looking to transfer all its care homes to Care UK, this decision made by cabinet we have decided to call in to the Scrutiny Committee for a more detailed look.

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