

Thorndon Parish Council 4.7.2013
County Councillor Report

Education Report

.A new scrutiny committee has been formed, The Education Scrutiny Committee, and I have a place on this panel that will look into how we best improve our children's educational standards.

The recently commissioned report into education in Suffolk carried out by the RSA action & resource centre highlights the current situation and how we can best move to a position where constant improvement is the bench mark.

One of the initial key findings of the report is how vital partnership working should be. Already Suffolk is partnering with Hackney to find out how their attainment has rocketed and how we could benefit from this experience. Also the recommendation that primary schools with lower than 100 pupils should federate with others, is also a strong recommendation, and something I have supported as a way of making our rural schools more resilient in an uncertain future, and allow for greater scope for specialist teaching at an earlier age. Federation is not without its challenges. Having one governing body for a number of schools could lead to a lack of accountability, but the report acknowledges this and suggests that each school has a school council made up of parents' teachers and pupils.

A14Toll road Cambridge

You may wonder why Suffolk County Council is proposing spending £1million pounds over 25 years to bring about a toll road between Cambridge and Huntingdon. The reasoning behind this proposal is that Suffolk suffers from the congestion around Cambridge holding up Lorries coming from Felixstowe Port, thus affecting our businesses etc. This is all the more baffling when the A14 concrete section at Haughley New Street is in imminent danger of complete collapse! Year after year this section is being "emergency patched" this is because the concrete has worn so thin that the movement of the heavy traffic is now deteriorating this section badly.

Speeding Issues

I have circulated the outcome of our traffic survey, happy to help with the outcomes feedback etc.

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