

## District councillor's report, September 2013

### 1. Government spending review

The key points are:

- The total amount of government spending will continue to fall in real terms at the same average rate as today until 2017/18
- There will be a further 1% cut in local government funding for 2014/15 (in addition to that previously notified), and 10% cut in 2015/16. However, the government says that the 10% cut will only result in a 2.3% reduction in spending power, as a result of powers to raise additional funding
- For the first time, the government will introduce a cap on the country's welfare spending from April 2015
- Over £3bn is to be allocated to affordable housing. Social rents will increase by CPI +1% a year from 2015/16 to 2024/25.

### 2. Affordable Homes delivery

Building work at Steele's Road, Woolpit continues with Persimmon Homes on site to complete Phases 4 and 5, amounting to 14 dwellings by the end of the calendar year.

Work is ongoing with Orbit East Housing Association and the Homes & Communities Agency to bring forward the redevelopment scheme to replace the non-traditional "Unity" houses in Stowmarket, Haughley and Woolpit, with a planning application expected at the end of July.

The 5 new affordable homes at Redgrave were officially opened at the end of June.

### 3. Enforcement activity

A serious gas safety problem (gas leak and inadequate ventilation) identified during a routine food safety visit at a pub/takeaway has resulted in the closure of the premises for business until the cooking equipment involved can be made safe and operated safely. We have found gas safety issues in other catering premises and this is likely to be an area of health & safety work we focus on for the rest of the financial year.

Charles Tilbury  
01449 767857

[cmw\\_tilbury@btinternet.com](mailto:cmw_tilbury@btinternet.com)  
07710 376555