

## **Thorndon Parish Council 5.9.2013**

### **County Councillor Report**

#### **Expenses Issues**

Once again the issue of Members allowances and expenses has reared its head. Suffolk County Council is looking at asking the remuneration Committee to take a look at Members allowances and expenses.

I have replied to this consultation stating that I personally feel that allowances for councillors should not change during a term of office, and travel etc should be built in to the allowance and not claimed for on a monthly basis.

If this were the case all candidates and the electorate would know exactly what monies a councillor would get before a vote is cast and that this figure could not be altered in any way by the elected member, it would also have the added benefit of less admin cost to check that councillors have not been creative with any claim.

#### **Energy Smart Buildings.**

If anyone wishes to visit an Energy Efficient building, to gain ideas and inspiration an open house style exhibition looking around some of Suffolk's most efficient dwellings is happening again this year between 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of September (inclusive). To book a place contact [www.greensuffolk.org/hod2013](http://www.greensuffolk.org/hod2013) or call 01473264555

#### **Patron Saint**

The County Council is looking into supporting a campaign to make St Edmund a Patron Saint. Including naming the Council chamber the St Edmunds room.

#### **Street lighting**

Following on from a recent incident, it appears there is some confusion over the streetlight part night lighting exceptions procedures.

If there is an incident that the Parish Council, Police feel that a short period of extending the time certain lamps are lit, the county officer will liaise with myself and parish and Police to agree a temporary extension.

If a major incident is in process the Police can authorise entire villages to be lit up to help with Police enforcement, this has happened 110 times last year.

#### **Fly Tipping Crackdown**

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has secured over £25k of funding from Defra (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) to help tackle the illegal dumping of waste across the county. This funding will go towards a county-wide approach as follows:

- Officers will patrol the roads (with Police) to carry out checks of commercial vehicles to inspect waste carrier licences and waste transfer documentation. Transporting waste illegally can result in a fixed penalty fine of £300
- Officers will be liaising with landowners to help reduce the incidents of fly-tipping on their land
- Streamline the reporting process across the county so that everyone knows how to report a fly-tipping incident