

Thorndon Parish Council 8.11.2013

County Councillor Report

Highways Department Wins Award

Last month Suffolk County Council's Highways department won an award for Environmental Sustainability,

Awarded to a highway authority or partnership that is able to demonstrate consideration of environmental issues within a project.

The project improved sustainability in the highway environment such as: carbon footprint reduction; local environmental benefits; sustainable material use; reduction of Co2 plus involve community liaison and consultation. Awarded to the Council's part night lighting streetlight programme.

Installation of the Intelligent Lighting System to 65000 street lights and implementation of part night lighting is a massive programme involving numerous parish and town councils streetlight network. The confidence raised during this roll out has lead to a number of Villages reviewing their entire street light infrastructure, with some parishes installing LED streetlights, funding their installation from energy savings.

St Edmund

Some might consider the naming of our Council chamber at Endeavour house Ipswich as a trivial matter, but last week's full council meeting agreed to name our chamber the King Edmund of East Anglia room. The signs are being donated, and this chamber will now formally recognize the unique part this local Saint played in British History.

Council Opposes A14 Toll

The last full council meeting confirmed the County Councils rejection of the proposal to toll a, to be built section of the A14 in Cambridgeshire. The County Council argued that it was unfair to local businesses for hauliers and freight companies to have to pay this toll to bring forward this work to a European trunk route. I also pointed out that concrete sections of the A14 near Haughley are deemed to have worn out 10 years ago according to Highways Agency reports.

Car Buyers Urged to 'check it not regret it'

Used car dealerships are under the spotlight as part of a joint campaign launched during National Consumer Week by Suffolk Trading Standards and the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).

Throughout November, officers will be conducting a county-wide crackdown, performing spot checks on second-hand car dealers in partnership with VOSA. Officers will be checking the safety of vehicles on sale and ensuring their descriptions are factually correct.

Nationally, the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline receives around 6,000 complaints each month relating to used car dealerships, and locally, 14% of all calls to Trading Standards are associated with purchasing second-hand cars.

The two organisations have teamed up to help people avoid buying an unreliable car when using a second-hand dealership. The campaign is urging people buying a used car to 'check it not regret it' by assessing whether the car is safe and legal.