

Thorndon Parish Council 6.2.2014

County Councillor Report

Highways Issues

Please let me know of any outstanding potholes and highways issues please, we have a review of the performance of the Kier May Gurney Contractors at the moment, it would be good to have your feedback. It seems that many of the day to day repairs that used to get done have been "lost in translation" an email with accurate descriptions would be great.

Broadband Update

I have received an important update from the Better Broadband team at Suffolk County Council and there are some significant developments regarding broadband in our area. This is, in part, due to the overwhelming pressure placed on the Council, BT and others by members of the public.

The 2 major issues for our area has been we were told BT would include us in their commercial upgrade but the reality is that for most of us this has not happened (as many suspected at the time). Additionally some areas in Suffolk were not covered either by a commercial upgrade or the publicly-funded intervention area.

These two areas are now being addressed by a new procurement process which starts now. The public consultation for this will be in the Spring with the new contract being signed in the Summer and work commencing before the end of 2014. We will do all we can to bring these dates forward as much as the procurement rules allow but, in the meantime, will advise you when the public consultation is open to help bring this about.

Progress Power Update

The proposed gas fired power station proposed for Eye airfield has taken another turn, Progress Power have claimed that in response to local demand they are going to underground the cabling from the plant to the national grid, but this latest move will need a new junction onto the A140, passing places in an existing track as well as about 2 football pitches worth of agricultural land to form a compound to house the cabling and associated infrastructure.

Unlike many other normal planning decisions this large piece of infrastructure, does not need the planning consent of district or County Council, it is determined by central government direct.

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