

Thorndon Parish Council 3.4.2014

County Councillor Report

Councillors Allowances

We have once again had another round of the charade that is Councillors allowances, once again an independent panel has looked into our scheme of allowances and suggested that a rise is in order, and we have been faced with voting for our own rise.

I voted against this, and proposed an amendment that would have meant the Council as its last act of this term then vote for any rise in allowances for the incoming council, this would have meant that we at last would not be voting for our own rises while in office, something that Parliament might have copied.

Leadership Challenge

You may have heard that Mark Bee's leadership of the ruling conservative administration had been brought into question by some fellow cabinet colleagues; Critics have suggested that Mark Bees leadership has led to a disproportionate focus on the East of the County at the cost to the rest. This has reignited the debate regarding local governance of Suffolk.

I personally find this challenge was ill founded, Mark Bee has been a very inclusive leader; under his leadership we have had numerous examples of back bench members being at the forefront of setting future policy, one example is the working group looking into the future of County Farms.

Education Scrutiny

Following the County Council's recent inspection by OFSTED, the central office has had the inspection results of its own Education service, I have sent you a copy of the report.

The Education Scrutiny Committee has met and discussed in detail the approach the Council has to supporting schools that are challenged, and how fast our support team intervene when various issues schools suffer from time to time, trying to just rely on structural change to lift standards is not the only answer. The councils "raising the bar" initiative is attempting to raise attainment, by schools learning from partner schools good practice, this project will forge partnerships between schools but with more and more Academies for which the County Council has responsibility for standards but no influence on governance.

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