

Thorndon Annual Parish Council 2014

County Councillor Report

Highways Contract

This year the county Council “outsourced the entire highways contract to a consortium of May Gurney and Kier. This contract commenced autumn 2013 and had to be quickly scrutinised to make sure the contract was delivering stated outcomes; as many small jobs during this period have been over looked and we still await some to be resolved.

Broadband Issues

The Better Broadband project commenced this year, with a number of new green boxes becoming “live” in a number of Communities, and was a welcome move forward, but as we soon found out, the existing cabling could not cope with demand, and the claimed coverage fell well short of BT estimates. The County Council secured further funding (circa £500,0000) to allow another round of procurement, to enable all Communities to benefit from fibre based broadband. Old Newton had an upgrade almost a year ago, many households now enjoy line speeds around 50mbps, although less than 100 households have benefitted from this until new cabling is installed.

Education

Primary School Closures at Badwell Ash & Stoke Ash have dominated this years in box, with an internal OFSTED report of the County Councils own internal service finding the council’s service was “ineffective” this has had a dramatic effect on the efforts of the Educational Scrutiny Committee to resolve the best way forward for Suffolk’s Education. It has also brought into question the focus, purely on structural change to enhance attainment. The County Council is now moving to ask if there is interest in a community use for Stoke ash Primary School Building.

Council Opposed Proposed A14 Toll

The County Council this year successfully, rejected the proposal to toll a 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. we also took the opportunity to point out that concrete sections of the A14 near Stowmarket, are deemed to have worn out 10 years ago according to Highways Agency own reports.

Thank you to All Parish councillors for your help and thoughts during this year.

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