

**Thorndon Parish Council 5.3.2015**  
County Councillor Report

**Highways Diversions**

A number of diversions are in place surrounding our parishes at the moment; please try to remember these diversions when plotting routes through Suffolk, Some of the diversions are long and very tiresome if you forget. Details are on the SCC website.

**Children Centres Closures**

The media has recently covered the agreed closure of a number of Children Centres in Suffolk recently. Most of these closures are proposed in the Ipswich area, the closest change in our area is in Thurston, The Thurston facility is due to close and the Provision in Stanton will carry on, a number of sessions will outreach from Stanton into Thurston to carry on the provision.

**Broadband Update**

I am delighted to report that I have been asked to join a group of councillors, tasked to address the way forward regarding the gaps in the roll out of the Suffolk Better Broadband programme, each councillor that represents divisions that are going to be left not covered by the first phase of the programme is invited.

The first meeting (today), focussed on the relationship between, and timescales for, the first and second contracts, the latest position on the 2Mbps Universal Speed Government Commitment and discuss ideas and options to support communities not covered by the first contract, but within the 2Mbps commitment area. We should also consider communication arrangements, opportunities to win more funding and to support the development of community based solutions.

working together as a group we aim to make the most of these opportunities and ensure that residents and communities across the county have the right information to make local decisions about broadband provision and that they do not miss out on the development of fast broadband across Suffolk. This issue is extremely pertinent to Haughley Green, Old Newton & the outer reaches of Wetheringsett & Thorndon. The first meeting has got everyone up to date with the various contracts, and we now have a greater understanding how this will roll out. With every one agreeing Broadband is now a vital utility, Suffolk has progressed further than any other County, regarding Broadband, but we still have a long way to go. We have a second meeting booked for next week.

**Highways Reporting Tool**

The new highways reporting tool is available via the County Council's website or directly at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/report-a-highways-problem](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/report-a-highways-problem) This should help to speed up and give clarity to the present arrangements.

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