

## **Thorndon Parish Council County Councillor Report 3.11.2016**

### **More Surface Dressing**

Suffolk County Council has allocated an extra £10 million to highway maintenance spread over 2016/17 and 2017/18, to top up the funding it receives from central government.

The most cost-effective way to spend this funding was to focus on surface dressing, and this is in keeping with the asset management approach agreed by cabinet in November last year. This is a low-cost way of extending the life of a road surface by around 10 years, by applying a layer of bitumen (to seal up the existing surface from damaging water ingress) and topping this off with a layer of granite chippings to provide durability and tyre grip. The areas programmed for next summer are having patching works carried out during this autumn, given the amount of utility works, and flooding occurring over the last few years, these repairs are in need of more road closures and night works etc. This is bound to create more inconvenience but is it good news that resurfacing is being carried rather than just constant patching.

### **Kier Given 5 more years**

The County Councils cabinet have approved the granting of an extension to the outsourced highways repair budget to present "Kier" contract, this 5 year extension has been agreed by cabinet without full council approval, this does mean this decision has been taken without any formal debate, although a call in by the Scrutiny Committee has been tabled.

It is getting increasingly concerning that more and more quite major decisions are being agreed at unminuted informal meetings with membership of only one political party. Given the level of concern regarding the current level of service experienced from this contract a number of promises of a better service level have been tabled, the task now will be to make sure these promised levels are adhered to.

### **Broadband**

Thank you to everyone who gave Amanda their telephone numbers and Post codes, this has been sent to the BT regional manager and the County Councils programme manager. After some discussions with the SCC team, could I request that as many as possible of those affected put in a formal complaint (on line if possible) then let Me or Amanda have the complaint reference number, the number of consecutive complaints coupled with the SCC team being able to accurately reference this data, should put us in a position that the easiest way out for BT is the upgrade Thorndon earlier in the programme. Sorry to ask for more work from residents but we have a legitimate complaint now, what we need is the best outcome.

**Andrew Stringer   01449 780339   07774 199061   [andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk)**