

Thorndon Parish Council 4.2.2016

County Councillor Report

Budget

The County Council once again is preparing its annual capital & revenue budgets, once again savings are identified that will become a challenge, I do not believe anyone agrees that the £1000,000.00 savings on the highways outsourcing has not caused noticeable issues. This year we are forecasting a 48.7 million pound shortfall even after programming savings from contracts of £5,000,000.00 as well as reducing locality budgets for councillors. One area where the expenditure is likely to go up is in adult social care, where we will take up the government sanctioned 2% rise in council tax to help with this budget area.

Broadband

Suffolk County Council has finally announced that it has started the second round of Superfast Broadband deployment ahead of schedule. The £30m contract with BT is part of the Government's Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) programme, and the aim is to extend coverage of Superfast Broadband to 95% of Suffolk premises by 2019, as the next major step in our plans towards full coverage by 2020.

The start of the second-round deployment was marked with a new cabinet in Eye becoming ready for service - this cabinet was actually the first in the UK to be delivered under the second round of the BDUK programme,

Some details of the coverage planned up until September 2016 has now been released on the Better Broadband for Suffolk website at: www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com.

Suffolk County Council has launched a basic broadband service to fulfil the Government's commitment that everyone should have the option of access to a broadband service of at least 2Mbps by the end of 2015. The scheme, providing broadband by satellite, has been trialled in Suffolk over the last few months ahead of the launch. It is intended as an interim solution for businesses and homes that currently get less than 2Mbps, and which are not included in the planned coverage in the next 12 months. Eligible people can now apply for a voucher to cover the initial installation and commissioning costs of a satellite broadband receiver. A guide and application form for the satellite broadband scheme can be found on the Better Broadband for Suffolk website at www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com.

Housing Company

The County Council has formed A Housing Company, this will help in future land uses such as Chilton fields in Sudbury, it also brings about a possible tension with the district council over new homes bonus, as we are seeking to renegotiate the split between County and District regarding this budget. Although St Edmundsbury Council is due to be a partner in this venture, the door is left open to other councils to join in the future.

VAS Signs

It would be very helpful if you are now content with the VAS proposal, if I could have an email asking for monies, I need to transact some payments this month from my locality budget.

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