

Suffolk County Council Annual Report 2017

County Councillor for Thorndon

Speed Indicator Devices (SID)

Speed indicator devices have been deployed this year in Thorndon, further devices have been deployed in Haughley Old Newton, as well as Cotton/Bacton and Wetheringsett, and proposals are being worked up for Occold. We thank Thorndon for their fortitude and patience while we worked out the implementation policies, These units are becoming very useful not only for speed deterrence but for capturing data regarding numbers of vehicles as well as times and amount of speeding vehicles. The data has helped us prove how many vehicles for instance travel along the B1113 near finbows yard (3900 per day) and identify some of the most extreme speeders, the fastest speed recorded to date was 97mph at Finbows yard B1113.

Devolution

This year saw an inordinate amount of time dedicated to the ever-changing devolution proposals for Suffolk, meetings with government took place, we went from Suffolk with Norfolk Cambridge and Peterborough to Suffolk with just Norfolk, but all this work did not secure any deal with many councils voting against the proposal as they felt it was not true devolution and did not deliver enough for their areas.

Budget

The County Council once again agreed its annual capital & revenue budgets, once again savings identified will become a challenge, I do not believe anyone agrees that the £1000, 000.00 savings so far 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 to go up is in adult social care, and the Council took the government sanctioned 2% rise in council purely for Adult Social care.

Broadband

Suffolk County Council worked through its second contract with BT to deliver high speed Broadband, This year saw new infrastructure in Haughley Green, Occold, Cotton & Bacton as well as the outlying areas of Old Newton. We escalated a number of telephone issues in Thorndon this year, and managed to pull forward the delivery date.

www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com.

Housing Company

The County Council this year formed A Housing Company, to help with future land uses such as Chilton fields in Sudbury, it also brought about tension with the district council over new homes bonus, as we are sought to renegotiate the split between County and District regarding this budget. Although St Edmundsbury Council is a district partner in this venture, the door is left open to other councils to join in the future. To date the company has not built or bought a single house.

Highways

The highlight of the year for me was the boxing day opening of the amended bridleway in fishponds way, although only the first stage this is a very important step in securing a safe walking route to Stowmarket from the centre of Haughley

This year brought into sharp focus the difficulty in bringing forward Highways works that use the Local highways budget, Haughley has witnessed this at first hand with the interminable delays in progressing even minor works, I had a look into the budget lines for all County Councillors, our experience locally is born out throughout the County, with more than £1000,000.00 of this £600,000.0 per annum budget remaining uncommitted or unallocated. The County Council agreed to shrink the budget for highways by a further £ 300,000.00 per year in the budget.

The Highways reporting tool was used extensively this year, although some jobs mysteriously disappear from the system, I followed some of these issues up and was told that some potholes were hard to find, so I planted some up recently with flowers took pictures and sent them in. this did seem to get them filled quicker!



As always I would like to thank all Parish Councillors, Claude Brand and the Clerk for their efforts and patience throughout the year

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