

# Parish Report October 2017

## Councillor

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## Cabinet decision on school transport policy changes called-in by LDGI Group

A decision made by Cabinet on 12 September, to go to public consultation on proposed changes to SCC's school transport policy, was 'called-in' to scrutiny by opposition councillors from the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group.

Proposed by Cllr Penny Otton and seconded by Cllr Andrew Stringer, the call-in cited several problems with the report that informed Cabinet's decision, and argued that to go to public consultation without a comprehensive impact assessment would be premature. The councillors questioned the expected savings and stressed the need to fully research how changes might impact on educational attainment, increased car use, and school viability.

The call-in was examined by the Scrutiny Committee on 28 September. As a result of this, it was determined that the decision should go back to Cabinet for a rethink.

## New Suffolk Observatory website launched

The Suffolk Observatory website has undergone a complete overhaul, making it easier to find data and intelligence. It is the one-stop-shop for statistics about Suffolk, and will provide easy access to information along with an improved search function. Data is now updated automatically from online sources.

Through data, reports and analysis, the Suffolk Observatory provides a comprehensive picture of the county and is a great source for useful facts and figures that will help you write reports and presentations, inform strategic and business planning, prepare funding applications or support academic research.

The new site was officially launched at the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board on 7 September 2017. The old site was replaced with the new version on 18 September 2017, and is available via this link: <http://www.suffolkobservatory.info/>

## PCC will not pursue plans to take control of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, has announced that he will not be pursuing plans to take control of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Services.

Earlier this year the PCC commissioned PA Consulting to undertake an options appraisal to consider the future governance of the Fire and Rescue Service and a potential shift of governance from the County Council to the PCC. This review concluded that there is insufficient evidence to suggest that a governance change would be clearly in the interests of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness; or public safety.

## **Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service launches 'escape plan' campaign**

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has launched a new safety campaign and website highlighting the importance of fire escape plans. The campaign addresses the fact that every year there are 40,000 accidental house fires in the UK. Having an escape plan will allow Suffolk residents to escape the fire quickly and safely.

Visitors to the campaign website will be able to:

- Take a quiz to test how prepared they are to escape a fire
- Create their own escape plan for everyone in their household

The 'escape plan' fire campaign will run until 31 October 2017. More information can be found at [fire.suffolk.gov.uk](http://fire.suffolk.gov.uk).

## **Wetheringsett Town lane Update**

The County Council has installed temporary cones along Town lane to protect the soft verge ahead of us releveling these sections.

The data collection strips have also been installed to gather another set of data to confirm and compliment the information gathered since the last official audit.

I have also had a meeting with the Police, to confirm the approach we are taking with this issue is appropriate and proportionate; I can confirm this is the case.

We still await the promised signage from XYE, guiding Lorries in from the A140.

I have also been chasing for an update on the P7 cabinet serving Thorndon, as soon as I get this update I will inform you

Andrew Stringer 05.10.2017