

Thorndon Parish Council County Councillor Report 2.2.2017

Highways Issues

I have had a drive around since our last meeting, and made sure all potholes etc are reported, please check to website and see if I have missed any. It is good to see the web based reporting tool used.

Telephone Update

I have only had one reported unresolved fault reported to me since the last meeting, this has now been resolved, I have had communication regarding the lack of Mobile signal rendering it impossible to have a smart meter, in the last month there has been two new masts installed in the Mendlesham area, this may help the situation but will continue to press for this improvement to benefit Thorndon.

Budget

No prizes for guessing that this year's budget setting at Suffolk County Council is going to be difficult one, With the county council having to pay for Adult social care, and promising not to increase council tax base rates, the government has now allowed authorities with the adult social care responsibility the ability to raise council tax ring fenced for this service without having to have a referendum. This is the route we are being asked to approve at next week's budget setting Full Council meeting, we are being asked to agree to a 3% rise to a band D property, therefore the Band D social care precept will now likely be £56.97.

Bacton Middle School Site

Suffolk County Council are exploring the possibility of moving the Primary School from its present site to the redundant Bacton Middle School Site, this is a welcome move as it accords with many of the residents that attended last summer's consultation events, and the vast majority of public feeling. These plans do not negate an element of housing on the existing Middle School site, and will require some of the existing Primary School site to be redeveloped, but it could mean the Primary School will be in a position to expand in future years without a greater burden on local infrastructure, as well as secure some open space in the centre of Bacton accessible by footpath. This is a major change in the approach of the County Council and is the result of many hours of lobbying not least by myself, as well as the consistent feedback from the public at the drop in sessions. There is still a long way to go but at least the county is at last having an open approach to this.

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