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**Report for October 2021 to Parish Councils Upper Gipping  
from Andrew Stringer (SCC Councillor)**

**Review of SEND provision Report**

Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which has now been completed, and the report made public.

The report, was limited to some specific areas of the service (communications etc)

It does make a seriously worrying read, 195 children had not had an assessment by the legal deadline, as well as 45 children had no school placement at all, as well as parents and teachers were not kept informed in a consistent manner.

The report points out we have some good people but within a poor system, a system where Suffolk County Council failed to meet its statutory deadlines for EHC (education health & care) plans, a clear breach of compliance.

Some parents were made to feel pressured and some felt bullied into taking unsuitable placements.

Our group have called for the Education Scrutiny Committee, not due to sit until December, to be re-convened at the earliest opportunity. The administration has rejected these calls.

One of the worrying aspects regarding the report, is that it calls for a better culture in how as a council communicates, yesterday the Council briefed journalists on the contents of the report, 2 ½ hours before councillors were given access to the findings.

If anyone has any issues regarding the need for this provision, please tell them to get in touch.

**Fuelling Debate**

The Green Suffolk website is promoting the District Councils local energy event at Wherstead Park Ipswich is running for two days, the free to attend event will showcase opportunities for energy generation etc, and a chance to speak to those in the trade to get the latest information on products and technological advances in the renewable energy sector. Mid Suffolk ran a similar event in 2008, and we ran out of room for the visitors wishing to attend.

One area for debate is whether hydrogen would be classed as a renewable technology, and like many things on politics, there isn't a straight answer because it depends on the type.

Hydrogen's use in fuel production takes many forms, and is split into colours, Black, brown, grey, pink blue and green hydrogen are all forms of this technology, but only one of them could be classed as renewable,

- 21-22 October – Local Energy Showcase (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council)

Andrew Stringer  
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Green, Liberal Democrat, and Independent Group Leader