

Parish Report – April 2023

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For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email:

refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk or ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

SCC Cabinet Meeting

The latest Cabinet meeting approved an additional £32.013 million of investment in the Children and Young People's Directorate to ensure the Council could continue to meet its statutory duties in providing and maintaining safe, secure and appropriate accommodation for young people to learn and for those in need of care support;

The Cabinet approved additional borrowing of £26.066 million in order to fund part of the £32.013 million increase with the remaining balance of £5.947 million being funded from other capital sources,

The cabinet approved the application of £1.488 million from the Central Contingency Budget in 2023-24 to the Capital Financing Budget to fund the revenue cost of the £26.066 million of borrowing.

This extra borrowing is needed to fund increased school places needed due to high levels of housing growth, these spaces are the county councils statutory duty, concerning to note that SCC is not able to secure enough funding to cover this cost from developer contributions.

New Highways Services: Contract Agreed

Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, has been awarded SCC's new highways services contract. The contract, worth between £800m-£1bn, will begin 1st October 2023 and will last up to 20 years. The service will provide maintenance of roads, pavement, Rights of Way, drainage, hedges, construction of new roads, and snow clearing etc.

Our Group campaigned last year for Suffolk Highways maintenance to quote for the service to be brought back in-house. This was due to the extortionate prices the previous provider, Kier, gave for simple jobs such as tree cutting and speed bump designs (i.e., £5,000 for a pair of dropped kerbs, £7,500 to cut down a single tree, £10,000 to design four humps in a road).

Our Group has been given reassurance from Suffolk Highways that the same mistakes will not be repeated, and that the contract is more robust to deal with the inflated quotes previously received. However, our Group will closely monitor to ensure this is the case.

Household Support Fund: Extension Granted by Government

The Government has agreed to extend the Household Support Fund, meaning local authorities will continue to receive funding to help residents through the current cost-of-living crisis. The grant is distributed through small payments to support vulnerable household meet daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities.

To apply for help, visit Suffolk's Cost-of-Living support leaflet at:
<https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1>

Roadworks

We have now completed the pedestrian crossing, apart from the A14 this brings to an end a whole series of local roadworks linked to developments, this has lead to a number of breaches of conditions by operators of HGVs locally due to routes at times being blocked, the excuse for some of these breaches is now over.

We have had regular reports of inappropriate speeds in New Street, I have sent requests to the County Council and to the Police to improve the enforcement.

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