

## Report of County Councillor Judy Cloke to Bungay and Wainford parishes for

December 2023

Because of the way Parish Council meetings fall and the fact I had to cancel some things because of being ill -as well as spending a long weekend in Glasgow – my report for December is not Parish specific.

### **Bungay:**

I am delighted to report Bungay Community Centre now has a full alcohol licence.

I had three meetings planned in the first week of December which concerned Bungay and had to cancel them all because I was still testing positive for COVID; I hope to catch up on them all in the coming weeks. Congratulations to Bungay Town Council on their new website, it is very user friendly.

### **Suffolk generally:**

#### Budget

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December , the SCC budget was presented to the Group and will come to full Council in February. Much of what was contained within it is now within the public domain, I made a strong case for keeping something which affects Bungay and other towns and villages within the Budget and was successful but cannot say what at present.

In the next two years, Suffolk County Council needs to pump almost £74 million extra into protecting the county's most vulnerable residents.

- £74 million extra needed to protect most vulnerable over two years
- £64.7 million savings to be made over two years
- Council set to reduce workforce, services and use savings

As part of financial plans to prioritise those in greatest need, an additional £42.7 million for children's services and £29.9 million for adult care are being proposed.

Along with local authorities up and down the country, the council has been hit hard by inflation and rising demand for services such as children's care, special educational needs and disabilities and home-to-school transport. It means having to make difficult decisions about the services it provides, including £64.7 million of savings in 2024/25 and 2025/26. Details of the plans for achieving this are on the SCC website.

#### Committee duties

I attended two site meetings prior to the Development & Regulation Committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> , they were both about quarry development and one at the side of the A12 was a particularly muddy field where I nearly lost my boots. This site had a good number of

local residents waiting for us who were very much against the development which is within the Suffolk minerals plan. The item was withdrawn from the agenda to enable the applicant to produce more information, nothing to do with the objectors as far as I am aware.

I also attended the Board meeting of the Suffolk wholly owned companies.

### Energy Projects

Suffolk County Council remains concerned at the lack of coordination between huge energy projects which would affect coastal communities in Suffolk.

In particular, the council believes National Grid should be taking more collective responsibility for its projects, such as with the Sealink and LionLink schemes. If left unchallenged, these projects could have a significant impact on Suffolk communities.

Sea Link is a proposal for the development of a new 2 gigawatt electricity connection, approximately 140km in length and predominately offshore.

LionLink aims to connect multiple offshore wind farms in the North Sea, instead of individual wind farms connecting one-by-one to the shore.

Cllr Richard Rout says : “The council has long been calling for an offshore approach to manage as much of the energy transmission as possible. It’s important to note that one of the key alternatives to the Sealink project, would mean more pylons across Suffolk - something which we utterly oppose.

### Winter maintenance

The gritting teams ask that people park on the usual gritting routes do so in a considerate manner so the gritting lorries can get through

### Suffolk recycling

The new and improved Foxhall Recycling Centre in Ipswich is now fully open to all customers as construction works have been completed ahead of schedule.

Work on the project began in October 2022 and was originally anticipated for completion in early 2024. The site remained open throughout the build, but service was reduced for business and trade customers and there were temporary restrictions on some waste types while space was limited.

The new site, designed by Concertus Design and Property Consultants and built by R G Carter, increases capacity for vehicles on site, improves access from Foxhall Road and reduces queuing on the highway.

It also has a new raised-level construction, giving better access to containers for users without the need for stairs.

Improvements have also been made to the site's Re-use shop, which sells furniture, sports equipment, kitchen supplies, books, toys and bric-a-brac collected at Suffolk's recycling centres and which would otherwise have been disposed of as waste.

May I wish everyone a peaceful New Year

Judy Cloke

7/1/2024