

Occold Parish Council 4.4.2011

County Councillor Report

Residential Care Home Consultation

The results of the consultation into the future of residential care home provision, has been announced. In a consultation that ran from 1.11.2010 to 24.1.2011 we asked Suffolk people what options they preferred, in transferring ownership of our 16 residential care homes.

The 3 options were;

- 1 Close the homes and buy alternative services from the independent sector
- 2 Sell the homes as “going concerns” in which existing residents are not required to move.
- 3 Close some homes and transfer the remaining homes to the independent sector.

Over a thousand responses came back, the key points identified were:

53% of people favoured selling homes as going concerns.

31% said they did not agree with any option.

10% of respondents said they supported closing some homes and transferring the remaining homes to the independent sector

6% of people said we should close all of our homes.

The findings of this report will be put to the Cabinet in May to approve which option to pursue.

This subject has increased my inbox considerably as families have been very concerned with potential disruption and uncertainty; this has caused some families to move relatives to other providers to mitigate the upheaval.

Conversations in “your place”

On the 17th of March during the debate on the update on the “new strategic direction” specific officers were appointed to lead “your place” conversations regarding the potential outsourcing to parishes of certain services provided at the moment by SCC. (libraries, country parks etc) these conversations will lead to services being discussed not in a piecemeal, service by service fashion, but looking at these services as a whole. The officer assigned to our area is David Evans he lives in Haughley and is donating his time for free to work along side myself make sure our patch gets its voice heard.

It is annoying that yet another buzz word has crept into our vocabulary , but at the heart of this one is a genuine attempt to get this right.

1 to 1 with the Chief

Last week I had another quarterly meeting with Andrea Hill, our much publicised Chief Executive. We did discuss at length the distraction that her salary, spending decisions etc are causing, and the impact this is having on her and our future. She did suggest that she would like to come to Upper Gipping to see some of the good work we do in our parishes, I welcomed this offer but did suggest she wear jeans and good boots when she comes.

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