

Occold Parish Council 7.2.2011

County Councillor Report

Petition Y/N

The Management of SCC decided to take down a petition from their website that called for the salary of the Chief to be reduced. This is a bold move as registering a petition has restrictions at the start which must have been adhered too or the petition would not have been tabled. I realize that to impose a salary cut is in effect breaking some ones contract , but to take this petition down is very big brother, or is that big sister !

There are a number of petitions on the county council website including one regarding the household waste sites, do have a look.

New Strategic Direction First steps

From all the details emerging from recent documents from SCC it appears that a number of services are being earmarked for the axe way before we embark on our “Divestment” venture. One area of extreme concern mentioned in my report last meeting, is that the waste department on top of shortening opening hours are considering closing 7 out of our 18 household waste sites, no one will commit to the exact sites that May close but no site is being ruled out at present. This move is very concerning as any closer is likely to impact on the instances of fly tipping and cost us more in the long run. Other measures being discussed are closure of county council run elderly care homes (Wade House Stowmarket Paddock House Eye etc) and potentially cutting our subsidy to Rural Bus services, which could lead to our services being halved, and closing Felixstowe Fire Station. On top of the Park and Ride at the western end of Ipswich, and removal of all concessions at the remaining London road and Martlesham facilities, and the closer of Libraries and the selling off of some of our woodland sites. This is all becoming too much too soon. It is only in the medium term the New Strategic Direction that we will look to “franchise out” services to communities and voluntary organizations, at this rate I fear they may be nothing left to transfer!

If there are any points you wish me to raise at the next full council meeting (February 17th) Please let me know.

Bus Services

The 113 and 114 services that run through Occold are set to remain “relatively unscathed” in this spending round, this is partly due to the high amount of usage and the diligence of our officers juggling the available spending. There will inevitably be a revised timetable but fingers crossed we should weather this particular storm.

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