

APPENDIX

Reports given to meeting of Occold Parish Council held on Monday 5th March 2012

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1. County Councillor's Report

Better Broadband

The county backed project to deliver better broadband for Suffolk is slowly gaining momentum, Last year we secured government backing for the £41.7 million fibre optic backbone planned for Suffolk. The tender for the contract to deliver this is due to go out in the spring, with upgrades to the existing network being programmed shortly.

It is hoped, that we would have been letting the contract by the summer, and I will be

pushing the County management to make sure this project's timing does not slip, and will be attending a conference in Suffolk later this month to get detailed information regarding the timeline of this investment.

Meanwhile to help draw in match funding etc from potential bidders, householders and businesses can register their support at www.suffolk.gov.uk/broadband

I would urge everyone to please register your support.

Policy Development Panels

Suffolk County Council has embarked on two policy areas to be reviewed, using policy development panels to look into the locality budget arrangements and what was branded the "our place" initiative.

The panels will meet for two consecutive days and interview officers and members of the voluntary sector and parishes, to find out how we could improve things.

I have a place on both of these panels and look forward to testing the current working arrangements and help in making changes that will make the Locality working of Elected members and officers better able to deliver the future needs of our communities.

I have also been assigned an officer to work with me in developing the working relationships between the County Council and the Parishes. Although only being allowed a few hours a month of officer time to work on this, I feel we could get a many issues moved forward allowing us to forward plan a little more, rather than just responding to the latest issues, as at present. The first issue we will jointly work on, is the issue of a long awaited permissive footpath at fishponds way Haughley.

Budget Setting.

The County Council has agreed to a zero % increase proposal again this year, this is in response to a grant offered from central government to make this the case, but in accepting the grant, we have to sign up to zero increases in subsequent years without any assurance of these grants beyond this year, leaving us not being able to guarantee higher future increases. The County is not using this grant to bolster its core budget, a position the Districts do not have the luxury of.

Household Waste site Closer

It is deeply concerning that the household waste site at Bramford has been closed by the new operator Boltons, after only 6 months of the trial period.

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2. District Councillor's Report

1. Council tax

In its meeting at the end of February the District Council took the decision not to increase Council Tax for the coming financial year, 2012-13, i.e. to accept a special government grant of £136,000. Other councils (e.g. Babergh) took a different view, and decided to increase Council Tax. There is a risk that the government will not repeat this offer next year, in which case our tax base will be £136,000 lower, requiring either further cuts or else a higher

increase in Council Tax. However, we believe that it was best to accept the money on the table and to attempt to keep Council Tax as low as possible.

This does not mean, however, that there will be no increase in Council Tax at all (Mid Suffolk only accounts for by about 10% of the total paid by local residents, the balance being made up by the County Council and the police). While the County Council has also decide to freeze its taxes, the police authority is increasing its precept by 3.75%. Town and parish councils may also decide to raise their precepts.

2. Waste recycling site, Brome

The operator of the site, Bolton Brothers, has taken the decision not to continue to operate its other site in Mid Suffolk, at Bramford, that they took on for a six-month trial period last September, because of insufficient use (in January, for instance, they saw fewer than 25 visitors per day). Boltons maintains that the Brome site will remain open, so long as visitor numbers there do not drop any further.

3. Fearless campaign against crime

Young people in Mid Suffolk and Babergh are being urged to become *fearless* in the fight against crime following the launch of a new service for the county.

Fearless.org was launched nationally in April 2010 and is a new website by the independent charity Crimestoppers where young people can get information about crimes that affect them. It also gives them the opportunity to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously. It is now being officially launched in Suffolk with the support of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's Community Safety Units.

While all schools in the District have been approached, so far only two, Claydon High School and Stradbroke Business & Enterprise College, have taken up the opportunity to host presentations in March. The events will include an interactive theatre performance and workshops by The Solomon Theatre and a talk by Fearless youth workers.

Ann Scott, Eastern Regional Manager for Crimestoppers, explained why Fearless.org is so important: "Young people are one of the most important audiences for Crimestoppers to communicate with, but they haven't always understood or been willing to interact with the charity. One of the key reasons for re-launching Crimestoppers for young people is to empower them to be 'fearless' in passing on information about crime anonymously if they feel unable to talk to Police.

She continued: "We want to reassure young people that information they give to Fearless.org about crime is taken seriously and that they have nothing to fear by contacting the charity. When someone contacts us we do not ask for their name or take any personal details. We do not trace calls/IP addresses and we do not record our calls. Those who give information do not have to give a statement to Police or go to court. In the 24 years that Crimestoppers has been running we have never revealed anyone's identity".

Crimestoppers plays a major part in the fight against crime. It has received over 1.3 million calls to date and every day 23 people are arrested as a result of information given to

Crimestoppers.

John Spitzer, Mid Suffolk's Community Safety Manager, added "We are very excited to be the first areas in Suffolk to launch Fearless. This is an excellent opportunity to engage with young people and provide them with an additional tool that will help them become more involved in their local communities".

The website is at: www.fearless.org and the brand new Fearless film can be seen here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/FearlessORG#p/u/0/Nbnbwb0WVTI>

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3. Community Police Officer's Report

Reported Crimes.

There have been no crimes reported in the Parish of Occold since our last report.

Security for Spring.

With the promise of warmer weather and lighter evenings please take care of garden machinery (lawnmowers etc) as it is easy to leave them out at the end of the day where opportunists will take advantage.

Remember to lock all outbuildings Vehicles and your House.

In recent days several suspicious vehicles have been seen in the area as usual Ford transit van silver

If anything seen please let us know with an index mark if possible by ringing 101 if they have left the area or 999 if they are still about and giving concern

Oil Thefts.

Once again the theft of heating Oil is causing concern it pays to be vigilant even if you are not now running your heating as Oil thefts can occur at any time of the year

NEW CONTACT NUMBER

For all non-emergency calls our number is now 101 this replaces the old switchboard numbers

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALLS 999 or 112

HOW ARE WE DOING

Suffolk is a very safe County, Crime levels, based on our end of year figures, show that crime levels have reduced for the 5th year in succession meaning crime levels are at their lowest for a decade.

Priorities

- Along with our partners, we are committed to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour across the county. Together we have developed Minimum Standards of service for victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour, ensuring a high level of service is provided across the county.

The current Priorities for Mid Suffolk Central are:-

- To liaise with local farm owners through increased patrols and farm watch to deter theft from outbuildings
- To provide reassurance visible policing and crime prevention to residents of Brown Street Old Newton

Have Your Say

The Community Priority Setting Meeting is now open to the public and is where our priorities for the following month will be set, please come along and raise any issues. The next meeting will be on **Monday 23 April**, at The White Horse The Street Badwell AshIP31 3DP.

The Meeting starts at 7.00pm and finishes at 8pm. All members of the Parish Council as well as the public are invited to attend when they can bring any issues/concerns to the meetings attention.

Please contact us to find out when later meetings are, alternatively the information is on our website.

Quality of service

If you would like to tell us your views on the service that you have received from us or just to say how nice it is to see a Police Officer in your village, please let us know. We appreciate all feedback & comments from residents within our SNT area.

Contact us

Tel: 101 & ask to speak to the Mid Suffolk Central Team

E-mail: midsuffcentral.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk/midsuffolkcentral - please visit our website which is updated regularly.

Kind regards

PC 54 Chris Neale and PCSO 3192 Stephen Johnson.

Mid Suffolk Central SNT
Debenham Police Station
Low Road
Debenham
IP14 6QU

PCSO Stephen Johnson also told the meeting to be on the look-out for two transit vans, one silver with a 08 registration and one white with a roof rack and possible 05 registration. These have been seen in the Thorndon and Mendlesham areas touting for work and several metal thefts have subsequently been reported in those areas

Sgt Nick Emerick is retiring on 12th April. He will not have a direct replacement but Jon Eaves, based in Eye, will now cover Debenham as well

SID had been deployed in Occold on a number of occasions but unfortunately the data collected had been lost. PCSO Johnson intends to return and will email a report through to the Clerk when it is available