

Occold Parish Council 9.1.2012
County Councillor Report

Meeting with the New Chief

Only a week into Deborah Cadman's new role as the Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council, she has had meetings with all group leaders including myself. This is a complete change in attitude to her predecessor Andrea Hill. Who saw keeping elected members fully informed as somewhat optional.

I am delighted to report that our new Chief is very aware of many of our rural concerns, and fully in support of our groups vision for changes to the way that County Hall is run. This stems largely from Deborah's background in local government at a District level being the C.E.O of St Edmundsbury Council.

Her view of District Councils widely acknowledges the vital role they play and how they can truly be the eyes and ears for a community and that the County should build that into their thinking and strategies into the future.

The meeting recognized that 2012 would be a very challenging year, but smarter working together could deliver a changed service delivery in a slightly more joined up way.

Operation Eydon

Suffolk has suffered from a number of copycat incidents where people have thrown items onto moving traffic along the A14 and A12,

So far a total of 22 motorists have been affected by debris thrown from bridges in 8 separate incidents on the A12 and the A14. There appears to be no pattern to these incidents and no set times when these are occurring. There are 32 bridges on the A12 and A14 and 8 of these bridges have been identified as high risk.

All partner agencies have been asked to park marked vehicles on these bridges during down times and extra police patrols have been provided. In addition, notices in the press and on all partners websites have encouraged people to be vigilant and prompt in reporting any issues which they think may be related.

Although there is no assumption that the perpetrators are young people, national research does suggest that this could be the case. Because of this the county council are looking at rolling out a teaching programme aimed at young people in schools along the A12 and A14 Corridors.

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