

APPENDIX

Reports given to meeting of Occold Parish Council held on Thursday 4th April 2013

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1. County Councillor's Report

Try A Rubbish Diet!

In 2008, a Bury St Edmunds' housewife, Karen Cannard, took the Borough Council's *Zero Waste Week* challenge and shrunk her bin over eight weeks from a full load to just a small bag. In the final *Zero Waste Week* she made the headlines by throwing away nothing but a single plaster!

Since then, her *Rubbish Diet* blog has reached far and wide, with people around the country and abroad taking the rubbish challenge, seeing how low their bins could go!

On 15 April the *Rubbish Diet* is about to gain further momentum as BBC Radio Suffolk's Mark Murphy is bringing the challenge back to Suffolk and will be encouraging as many people across the county to join him as he slims his bin and helps folk across the county to do the same, participants who have taken on the *Rubbish Diet* challenge have reduced their waste by an average of 50% and even saved money too.

Billed as 'Weight watchers for your bin', dieters weigh their waste every fortnight and aim to lose weight by reducing, recycling, reusing and composting. Dieters form a 'support group' similar to a slimming club, to identify targets and share ideas. Karen Cannard can confirm that the process isn't too hard and she will support all the people who are taking part.

All you need to do is work out how much rubbish you already throw away and estimate the top five things that fill your landfill bin - then over eight weeks, try to find ways to eliminate them.

There will be plenty of advice on Mark Murphy's show, starting on 15 April, plus weekly updates from Karen's *Rubbish Diet* team too, as well as advice from the waste team at SCC.

contact Caroline Fish on caroline.fish@suffolk.gov.uk

Greenest County Local Winner

Last week's Creating the Greenest County Awards event celebrated green achievements. This year's awards featured the best newcomer award, the winner was Crispin Recycling Ltd Operator of the Brome & Oakley Community Recycling Centre situated on the Brome Industrial Estate at the northwest corner of Eye Airfield, following Suffolk County Council's closure of the site as a free facility. The site had proved unviable as a fully commercial operation but Kevin Crispin believed he could make it work on a self-employed basis, supported by his family.. Suffolk's own Paralympic medal winner Zoe Newson was the surprise guest host.

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2. District Councillor's Report

1. Community Engagement Programme – Mid Suffolk

Thank you to all who provided the District Council with information during our community engagement programme last summer and autumn. We received responses from over 560 individuals, town and parish councils, businesses and other organisations across the two districts. This programme was undertaken to ensure that we understood the needs, issues and aspirations of our community and how these could be realised in the context of our budget constraints and national policy. Information was gathered by means of online surveys, questionnaires, meetings and via special events in specific localities.

All the responses have been considered and the issues were fed into a series of workshops for Councillors held between September and November along with information from other sources. These resulted in the production of a draft vision and draft priorities for each council which were approved by Executive Committee for Mid Suffolk.

Mid-Suffolk's draft vision is: "We will work to ensure that the economy, environment and communities of Mid Suffolk continue to thrive and achieve their full potential".

Mid-Suffolk's draft priorities emerged as:

- Lead and shape the local economy by promoting and helping to deliver sustained economic growth which is balanced with respect for wildlife, heritage and the natural and built environment.
- Ensure that there are enough good quality, environmentally efficient and cost effective homes with the appropriate tenures and in the right locations.
- Encourage and support individuals and communities to be self sufficient, strong, healthy and safe.

Using the information provided, Councillors also produced a list of desired outcomes – what the districts will look like if our aims are achieved. These are currently being refined and will be fed back to the community later in the year.

Once we have agreed what we wish to achieve we will need to work on the 'how' which will include consideration of the suggestions, ideas and best practice you put forward. This will then determine how we allocate our limited resources and will be used in transforming the organisation to achieve the desired outcomes.

Comments were also received on what is expected from council staff in terms of responsiveness and attitudes. Many of these comments have already been acted upon, all have been noted and we are working on bringing about the cultural changes required.

Community engagement was not a one-off exercise and we wish to continue the dialogue with our communities. If you have any comments, queries or suggestions please contact us via the tellus@midsuffolk.gov.uk e-mail address.

2. Spring Clean 2013

We are calling upon local people to come forward and take part in one of our Spring Litter Picks. These are part of Suffolk County Council's "Creating the Greenest County" initiative which aims to respond to climate change and enhance the natural and historic environment.

Last year 51 parishes took part across Mid Suffolk and 25 in Babergh and this year jointly we already have 34 events registered.

We know it makes a real difference and makes Mid Suffolk and Babergh desirable places to live, work and visit.

To find out how we can support you, please give us a call or send an email: to Sarah Carter at Mid Suffolk on 01449 724946 sarah.carter@midsuffolk.gov.uk.

Charles Tilbury
01449 767857

cmw_tilbury@btinternet.com
07710 376555

3. Community Police Officer's Report

Reported Crimes.

There are no crimes to report this month.

We are experiencing some crimes of domestic oil thefts locally. However, this winter has been extremely cold and prolonged with everyone using their heating more than at this time last year. We would urge everyone to be aware of their usage and the levels of oil in their tanks as some people have reported thefts to us, which when we have attended the location and spoken at length with the homeowner, their tank is not easily accessible from the road and there are no signs of disturbance or damage to the tank. It is purely due to increased usage.

Following a spate of dwelling burglaries in the Midsuffolk area in recent months, several suspects for these crimes have now been arrested and enquiries are ongoing.

These offences have occurred during daytime as well as overnight, so if residents do see suspicious persons and/or vehicles in their village we would urge them to dial 999 straight away with descriptions and vehicle details if possible.

If houses are unoccupied during hours of darkness, please remember to close curtains and leave lights on. Security mark your electrical goods with a UV pen and take pictures of high value items such as jewellery.

The Proposed Priorities for Mid Suffolk Central are:-

- To identify potential targets vulnerable to burglary and provide practical advice to owners on how to improve security, whilst actively gathering intelligence and encouraging the public to report suspicious incidents.
- To work with our local parish councils and other partner agencies to promote road safety for child cyclists and pedestrians during the winter months
- To provide high visibility foot patrols in key villages at varying times in order to reassure residents, deter crime and prevent disorder

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 **Baptist chapel Norwich Road Stonham Parva Monday 8th April 2013**

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.

- 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.

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 & PCSO 3192 Stephen Johnson.

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

4. Report on SALC Mid Suffolk North meeting 11.3.13

The first speaker was Dave Smith, SCC Highways Dept who described the changes taking place in the department and the reasons for them.

Essentially, all highway maintenance functions are to be outsourced to the private sector. These include bridge maintenance, highway design and construction, signing, lining, pot-hole filling etc. All staff currently employed in these functions will be transferred to the private sector employer under ' TUPE' terms. (*Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE)*). This will mean a significant reduction in the SCC employee headcount.

Various management and monitoring functions will be retained in-house to ensure strict compliance with the terms of the contract.

The council already outsource various maintenance services to a number of different private sector companies - for instance, street lighting maintenance to Carillion. However, the county council now intends to consolidate all existing contracts into a single supply agreement with a single provider.

Why is this reorganisation necessary? The answer;- central government has cut financial support for county councils and therefore savings must be found within the SCC budget. SCC expect to save in the region of £2 million as a result of the outsourcing.

It was originally intended to award the contract to Balfour Beatty but they were unable to guarantee the price for the duration of the contract. The new preferred bidder is a consortium comprising May Gurney, a regional roadworks outfit, and WSP, a national design consultancy. The new contract is due to come into effect on October 1st.

Mr Smith advised the meeting that any highways work requested by Parish Councils which fell outside the terms of the contract may have to be paid for by the council. However, he also advised that each County Councillor now has a discretionary *Quality of Life Budget* which can be used for highway improvements.

The next speaker was Gordon Mussett, a SALC Trainer, who spoke about Neighbourhood Plans. This is familiar territory to members of Occold Parish Council so I will not record what was said - we've covered this ground on a number of occasions in the recent past. However, one point he made which is worth noting is that the estimated the cost of a Neighbourhood Plan is currently £40-45,000. SALC are working on a scheme, using common templates, which could reduce this to £20-25,000. Much better but still well beyond our reach.

Developments at Hartismere Hospital site were then discussed.

Approval has been given to begin construction of a privately owned, 60 bed, nursing home at the rear of the site. A significant number of car parking spaces will be provided so operation of the nursing home should not impact on parking at the Eye Medical Centre, parking for which has now been moved to the old Gilchrist site.

Critical comments were made about the quality of service provided by the out-sourcing company Serco, which is now responsible for such services as Physiotherapy, District Nursing based at Hartismere. This issue is being escalated through the NHS Trust hierarchy.

[Information provided to the Clerk via SALC subsequently: -

The services on site are:-

Allied Health professionals headquarters

Allied Health professionals physiotherapy

Day and treatment services including physio, assessment etc

Clinical services including:

- Podiatry
- footcare
- leg ulcer
- AAA
- Catheter

Childrens physio
Community paediatrics
Parkinsons consultation
Continence
IAPT
Maternity (low risk)
District and community nursing teams
Continence
School nursing and health visiting teams
Complementary Medicines
Training

The contacts are:-

Melanie Craig, Chief Operating Officer of Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group.

Dr Mark Shenton, Chair of Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group.

If you would like to contact either of them, please call their Executive Assistant, Kathy Emsden on 01473 770256.]