

APPENDIX

Reports given to meeting of Occold Parish Council held on Monday 9th December 2013

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1.

County Councillor's Report

Public Transport Panel

I am delighted to have a place on a panel looking into public transport in Suffolk, we are particularly looking at how we target a diminishing budget to help areas of need to gain sustainable bus services. The first meeting looked at how accessible our timetables are, and areas in which we could improve, as well as using data from passengers not able to access demand responsive services.

Stoke Ash Primary School

Some might have heard rumors circulating regarding the future of Stoke Ash Primary School, The official position is that the Head teacher has resigned and will be leaving shortly, following the recent Ofsted inspection at the School, numbers of pupils has plummeted.

The County Council has tried to find an academy partner to secure the future; this has not been forthcoming, as no other schools wished to partner with Stoke Ash it is highly likely it will close. This brings into focus the finding of our recent RSA report into education in Suffolk that suggested that schools with less than 100 pupils need to federate with a partner or partners.

Budget Setting

Suffolk County Council has a statutory responsibility to set a balanced budget. The funding for the budget comes from a number of sources including council tax, government grants as well as specific grants, fees and charges

Over the past few years central governments focus on reducing the national deficit has meant a reduction in funding for local government. This means that savings have had to be found from across all areas of the County Council. Budget setting is conducted through a process of consultation and open meetings. Every year, in the Autumn the cabinet considers budgets for their particular area of responsibility and recommends appropriate capital and revenue budgets to Full Council. The Full Council then meets to approve the budget in February.

In the last four years we have made a lot of savings. However we are now facing an even bigger budget gap. We have to save another £156 million in the next four years and, while we have made every effort to get more from every pound we spend, we will be faced with making increasingly tough decisions

Suffolk County Council is committed to giving everyone the chance to have their say on our budget proposals, The Council has commissioned Ipsos Mori to undertake a residents survey on our behalf. This will give residents the chance to tell us about the services they feel are a priority and where they feel we should be looking at making savings. The Council has used the feedback received to date to develop its initial budget proposals.

Over the next 2 months we will be using the opportunity of meetings and events which are being held across the county to share our budget proposals and seek feedback from local people and organisations. These online feedback forms are on the County Council website, or attend the nearest SALC area meeting.

I hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and New Year

.Andrew Stringer andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk 01449 780339 07774 199061

2. Community Police Officer's Report

Reported Crimes.

There has been one reported crime in the Parish of Occold since our last report.

On 1/11/13 items were taken from an open cart shed and a shed door forced in Clint road

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION OR ARE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING REPORT IT ON 101 and IF YOU THINK A CRIME IS BEING COMMITTED ALWAYS DIAL 999.

GENERAL

A recent speed survey shows a high number of road user's exceeding the 20MPH speed limit. We are carrying out patrols of the area with our speed gun to deter offences.

The 20MPH speed limit should be self-regulating by means of road design i.e. Installation of speed humps and chicanes. We recommend the parish council liaise with highways for a suitable design.

We have also noticed the limit signs have been turned around and have requested highways to repair.

The latest statistics show overall crime down by more than 5% compared to last year.

Ongoing Crime Prevention Advice.

Take pictures of valuable items and record their identification numbers or register them on the National database "Immobilise." If you have valuable mobile equipment consider having tracking device fitted.

Police Direct.

Police Direct is the way to find out what is going on in your neighbourhood. You can get the latest information about crime and policing in your area by, text, email or telephone by registering free at www.suffolk.police.uk or telephone 01473 613997.

TWITTER

You can follow us @midsuffpolice.

HOW ARE WE DOING

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 identify antisocial parking in Debenham and to enforce existing restrictions
- To work with Thorndon school on parking to improve road safety

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 **06 January 2014**, at Creeting St Mary Village Hall, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary. IP6 8NF

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.

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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

Kind regards

PC 873 Clare Wayman and PCSO 3192 Steve Johnson.

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

3. District Councillor's Report

1. Mid Suffolk District Council secures prosecution for failure to comply with a listed building enforcement notice

A Mid Suffolk resident has been fined £400 and ordered to pay more than £1,000 in court costs for illegally installing solar panels on his home, which has listed building status.

John Walker, of The Thatched Barn, Hoxne, erected 16 solar panels on the roof of an outbuilding without applying for planning permission or listed building consent. Although he applied for retrospective permissions these were refused due to the impact the panels were having on the setting of the listed building. An officer commented: "every available avenue was explored before moving to prosecution. We would always rather work in partnership with people, and this does take time due to the national guidelines, but Mr Walker left the council with little option but to move to enforcement."

Following refusal of retrospective planning permission, the Council issued a Planning Contravention Notice to Mr Walker seeking answers to questions regarding his interest in the property and those responsible for the installation.

As no response was received, a listed building enforcement notice was issued on 12 March 2013. No appeal was lodged against this notice and the notice thereby took effect on 15 April 2013. A period of three months was provided in which to remove the solar panels and to make good the roof slopes of the building, which expired on 15 July, 2013.

"The harm caused was simply too great to ignore and it is very apparent that this action could have been avoided had Mr Walker sought appropriate advice."

2. Dog litter bins

The cost of the dog and litter bin emptying service will rise by £5 bin next April. This will bring the cost, to Town and Parish Councils, of emptying each litter bin to £20 per annum and each dog bin to £25 per annum. Following this increase, the element of subsidy will still amount to some 64% of the actual cost in the next financial year.

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