

## **Appendix C – County Cllr. Penny Otton’s Report to Full Council**

### 2020-21 BUDGET PROPOSALS -

Council Tax - Council Tax is due to increase by 4% in 2020-21 .1.9% of this will be for general council tax, whilst another 2% will be the final increase for the Social Care Precept. This will go to full council n 13th February.

Citizens Advice - After three years of additional funding, the council expects Citizens Advice to become financially independent and reduce the number from 7 to 4. I have asked why the grant could not be increased.

THURSTON PLANNING APPLICATIONS - I am very concerned that the Mid Suffolk Planning Committee approved 1 and deferred another despite the Parish Council showing just what a devastating impact the current approvals are having.

I am particularly concerned with the apparent lack of consideration of the Neighbourhood plan.

MUD AND CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES ON THE PUBLIC HIGHWAY - once again we have had to report numerous incidents.

IPSWICH NORTHERN ROUTE - The consultation has ended, but as 2 councils have said they are not in favour this will probably not go ahead.

ORWELL BRIDGE - Highways England have released their report and there are suggested to stop the bridge being closed including reduction of speed limit in high wind.

FUTURE BUS PROJECTS - At a Scrutiny meeting in December, the deputy cabinet member for transport announced that the council was planning to bid for around £20 million from the Department for Transport for an electric bus pilot scheme. If the bid is successful, the council has said that it plans to launch the pilot scheme within 12-18 months in the Bury St Edmunds area.

CYCLING STRATEGY - SCCC has been looking into cycling provision across Suffolk and have agreed to develop a 5 year plan.

SUFFOLK HIGHWAYS PERMIT SCHEME - This is a change to current system. Utilities wanting to use the highway must apply for a permit at a charge. I have been told if they agree to co-ordinate with any highways work need to be done by SCC then they will be offered a discount.

## **Appendix D –**

## **District Cllr. Harry Richardson’s Report to Full Council**

### **Report from District Cllr. Cllr Wendy Turner to Full Council**

Planning enforcement - there is currently a review of enforcement processing and procedures. The long term aim to make the enforcement service swifter, more efficient and transparent, and it is hoped that this will be completed by the end of March. However, in the meantime it may take a bit longer to respond to and acknowledge calls, so I hope that this does not cause too much problem.

Full Council meeting - there was very little on the agenda for the last full Council meeting on Thurs 23rd Jan. The portfolio holders’ reports were published but questions on these was limited to just over 30 minutes, and in future portfolio holders’ reports will go to Cabinet meetings instead of full Council meetings. The only other item on the agenda was the adoption of Botesdale and Rickinhall Neighbourhood Plan.

## Appendix C and D – Minutes of 05.02.20

Budget - the budget and financial strategy will be discussed at Cabinet meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February. It is proposed that there will be a Council Tax increase of 1.66%, this equates for a Band D property to £2.76 pa, 5p per week. Following a Cabinet recommendation the budget will be due for approval at Full Council on 27th February.

Climate Change - the Climate Change working group have had some meetings where different aspects are discussed, but as yet disappointingly few actions or recommendations have been brought forward.

Planning - there are a number of very heavy agenda for the planning committees. On Wednesday 29th January the planning referrals committee had 6 items on the agenda, but only 3 were discussed between 9:30 and 17:55. All three of the application sites were for sites which were not allocated in adopted neighbourhood plans but were identified as sites in the draft Joint Local Plan. Two of the sites were in Thurston; 210 dwellings off Beyton Road were approved and 210 dwellings east of Ixworth Road were deferred. They were both recommended for approval by the officers who seemed to place more weight on the draft JLP and the housing numbers than on the adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

Stowmarket Regal - Stowmarket Town Council and MSDC are funding a refurbishment project at the Regal in Stowmarket. Work is due to begin in March and should be complete by the end of the year. During this time films will be shown at the John Peel Centre.