

Parish Report – June 2021

Councillor Andy Mellen
Thedwastre North

20 South View
Wyverstone
Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4SP

Phone number: 07955 434435
andy.mellen@suffolk.gov.uk

SCC election results

Local elections took place on Friday May 6th for SCC's 75 county councillor seats, as well as several district councillor seats and the Police & Crime Commissioner. The Conservatives gained five seats and retain overall control of the Council, with a strong majority of 55 seats.

The Greens tripled their numbers to 9 seats. The Liberal Democrats have 4 seats down from 6, Labour have 5, down from 12 alongside 1 Independent and 1 West Suffolk Independent.

Suffolk County Council's annual general meeting took place on May 27th.

GLI Group becomes official opposition

Following the recent election, the Greens, Liberal Democrats and Independents have formed a political Group. The Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent (GLI) Group has 15 councillors overall and will take on the role of official opposition at Suffolk County Council. For the year 2021/2022 Councillor Andrew Stringer will be the Leader of the Group.

Diverse views are so important in politics, and having different people working together will only make us more effective in a progressive way. The Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group is ready to hold the Conservative administration to account and challenge them on doing the very best they can for the people of Suffolk.

Boundary Commission Review: consultation reopens

An additional phase of public consultation has opened in the Boundary Commission's review of Suffolk County Council's electoral arrangements. The consultation focuses on new proposals for council division boundaries, which include some fairly minor tinkering with division boundaries.

The consultation closes on June 21st and can be completed at the link below:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-county-council>

Launch of The Queen's Green Canopy In Suffolk

The Queen's Green Canopy is a tree planting and preservation campaign commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Partners including Suffolk County Council are working together to preserve and enhance existing woodland while increasing both canopy cover and access to green space.

Tree Wardens will work with communities and parish councils to link up existing woodland with woodland walkways and hedgerows as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. This tree planting will create natural corridors for biodiversity and link up existing footpaths and bridleways.

Different organisations are invited to get involved. Find out more at www.suffolk-lieutenancy.org.uk/queens-green-canopy

Developers' Guide consultation open

Suffolk County Council has launched a consultation on an updated version of the Developers' Guide. The guide is a document to support all those involved in major planning applications in the county.

To make sure that new developments result in improvements to local communities, developers must make financial contributions to local authorities, known as Section 106 agreements, or through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The updated guide aims to support developers and make them aware of what they should consider with their plans. The consultation runs from 17 May to 28 June and can be filled out at the link below:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/developers-guide-to-infrastructure-contributions-in-suffolk/>

New electric taxi-bus service launches in East Suffolk

Suffolk County Council has launched a 12-month trial of Katch – a new sustainable electric taxi-bus service running in East Suffolk. Katch provides a travel solution for local residents and visitors in Wickham Market and Framlingham, as well as for those who need to meet their rail connections at Wickham Market train station in Campsea Ashe. The service will be available seven days a week from 6.30am to 10.30pm on Monday to Saturday and 9am to 7pm on Sunday. All journeys must be booked in advance via the Katch App or telephone by calling 01728 55 44 55. The cost of a return journey is £7 and a single journey is £4. If successful and is regularly used by commuters and rail passengers, Suffolk County Council is keen to facilitate further schemes across the county.

For further information about Katch, please visit www.katchalift.com

Local issues in Thedwastre North:

Since being elected last month, I have received quite a lot of correspondence. I am attempting to respond to each enquiry and try to help where the County Council is directly involved. Issues have included the following:

- Speeding / speed watch / speed reduction measures including funding for flashing speed signs and their mounting posts.
- Potholes, roadworks and inadequate signage of road closures.
- School reorganisation consultations and school transport queries.
- The impact of development on highways, lorry routing etc.
- Noise and nuisance complaints.

Please do contact me if you think I can help.