

Parish Report – February 2022

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Council budget

The administration has proposed a budget which raises Council tax by 1.99%, with a 2% rise in the social care precept. The Scrutiny Committee met on 11th January to discuss the budget proposals. Our opposition group believes that the adult social care sector is close to collapse, and that the full permitted 3% rise should have been taken in order to support this sector. A recommendation to this effect was rejected by the Conservatives on the scrutiny committee. The budget is discussed at cabinet on 1st Feb and then comes to full Council on the 17th Feb.

Disappointingly, the administration were unable to deliver a detailed carbon budget alongside the finance budget for this year. The carbon budget is aimed to help us understand the level of emissions the Council are responsible for and helps toward achieving the Council's ambition of being carbon-neutral by 2030. It is important the Carbon Budget is scrutinised together with the finance, as there are many issues with data collection and performance measures that have not been addressed.

Transport East

The County Council is part of this regional transport body. It has drafted a new future strategy, with details of its priorities and investment with the aim of providing a leading transportation network. For more information, visit: <https://www.transporteast.org.uk/>

The opposition group of which I am a part are concerned with the emphasis on profit and growth. We believe the future strategy should focus on improved public transportation, greener energy, and walking and cycling infrastructure. We submitted comments to Transport East, asking them to reconsider their strategy.

Warm Homes Suffolk

This newly launched scheme is a joint project involving all councils across Suffolk, which offers funding and free advice to those who may be struggling to heat their homes, or are worried about doing so. Details can be found at www.warmhomessuffolk.org

New Discovering Suffolk App

As part of the two year 'Discovering Suffolk' project, a free mobile app has been launched to help access and enjoy the countryside. The app provides over 100 guided walking, cycling and riding trails to explore.

To download the app for free go to <https://www.discoversuffolk.org.uk/discover-suffolk-app/> or search for 'Discover Suffolk' in the app catalogue on your phone.

Suffolk Libraries Day 2022

Suffolk Libraries Jumpstart January wellbeing campaign ran again throughout January. Working with Wellbeing Suffolk, libraries offered a programme of free online fitness activities and wellbeing drop-ins. Hundreds of people enjoyed the activities already which include yoga, pilates, and creative

dance. Libraries are running an online book festival in March, as part of Suffolk Libraries Day 2022: a celebration of the county's library service and the organisation's main fundraising event. Libraries will also be confirming special events nearer the time.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/festival/suffolk-libraries-day-book-festival>

A14 overnight road closures

There will be a series of overnight closures of various sections in March, April and early May for repairs and investigations. All details should appear on the Highways England website on a dedicated page. The good news is that some of the investigations are preparation for replacing the noisy concrete surface between junction 47a and 49 with tarmac – timescale for this work to be confirmed.

Follow the opposition group on:

Twitter - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)