



November 2018 Thedwastre North

Remembrance Sunday



This year is 100 years since the end of the First World War, the war to end all wars, which sadly has not been the case. We pay our respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice from our villages over the years with simple wreath laying ceremonies at the war memorials in our communities. This year in recognition of this hundredth anniversary there are additional ceremonies with the lighting of beacons on Sunday in the evening. I try to attend as many of the events as possible. Everyone is welcome to attend these important occasions and local parish newsletters and church magazines will have details of when and where.

Budget Consultation launches as Suffolk County Council looks to save £25 million in 2019/2020

On 8 October 2018, Suffolk County Council launched its annual budget consultation. The consultation closes at 5pm on Friday 16th November 2018. You are being asked to give your views on the services provided by the council as it faces the challenge of making savings of £25 million in 2019/2020.

Like all local authorities, Suffolk County Council faces significant financial challenges in the delivery of essential frontline services to support the lives of the most vulnerable young people and older residents across the county.

As part of its careful financial planning and management in recent years, the council has saved £260million since 2011. It has also established innovative new ways to engage with communities and deliver services in the digital age, but there are still tough

calls ahead. The council want to hear residents' views on which services are most important to you.

A proposed budget will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 29 January 2019 and the final budget will be discussed at Full Council on Thursday 14 February 2019. You can visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/budget2019 to learn more about the budget setting process and to take part in the short survey to give their views.

Details are also available on Suffolk County Council's Facebook page and on its Twitter account @suffolkcc.

Have your say – family carers

Suffolk County Council is calling for family carers to share their experiences of support by completing a survey by 22 November 2018. All answers will be used anonymously.

Sharing their experiences will help Suffolk County Council to:
understand what currently works well for family carers
identify any gaps in support for family carers in Suffolk.

Carers can complete the survey online at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FamilyCarers/>
Carers can contact Helen Robinson (9am to 4pm Monday to Friday) on 01473 260354 or family.carers@suffolk.gov.uk if they would like an alternative format of the survey, for example:

- easy read
- large print
- or an alternative language.

The survey has been created by a multi-agency group that includes:

- Family Carer representatives
- Suffolk County Council
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Health
- Suffolk Family Carers

So if you are a family carer or know someone who is please do encourage them to complete the survey so we have as complete a picture as possible.

Suffolk Highways update

As I have been out and about I have spoken to a number of people who have commented at the number of roadworks taking place. Many assume they are by Suffolk County Council Highways, which is not always the case. Whilst the County Council has been working hard to repair potholes and do the enhanced surface dressing programme, if the road is being dug up then its probably one of the utility companies. To establish who is responsible use the www.roadworks.org website – it is very useful.

To report a problem please use <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

Locality Funding

I have locality funding from both Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council. Although the awards from MSDC should be for the Woolpit Ward there may be opportunities to share with neighbouring councillors. This happened with the Stowmarket Short Mat Bowls Club – the majority of members live in Woolpit but because it is based (for league competitions) at Stowmarket Town Football Club a number of Stowmarket MSDC councillors have granted locality funding to help with the set-up. There are still funds available so if there are projects that are in need of funds then please call me to discuss a possible locality grant.

Jane Storey

November 2018