

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting 21st October 2019

1 I attended the Suffolk Parish Engagement Event at The Mix in Stowmarket on 15th October at the invitation of the Suffolk Growth Programme Board. This body, formerly known as the Suffolk Growth Group, has a membership drawn from Suffolk Local Authorities, New Anglia LEP, the University of Suffolk, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce and the Suffolk Housing Board. It seeks, 'to have an integrated approach to delivering a programme of joint growth initiatives across Suffolk'. This session sought to bring together Planners, developers and T&PC's towards seeking to establish key steps needed to make engagement between the communities and the business / professional practitioners involved in Planning consultation. As is so often the case, the broad perspectives and wide horizons which were presented left behind the bread and butter factors which frustrate and neuter the effectiveness of community response to development proposals at a practical level. A glaring example is the fact that SCC Highways, accepted by many present at the event as by far the weakest link in the Planning consultation process, were not represented. Otherwise, as might have easily been predicted, outcomes such as, 'greater transparency', 'better communication', and, 'Councillor training', were, as so often before, written on an 'A' board.

2 The figures at lines 20 & 54 in the Financial Overview spreadsheet relate to the repairs to the storm-damaged Jubilee Hall roof, a saga which has lasted since 18th January 2018. The net cost to the community was the £250.00 excess levy.

3 A newly introduced event, the SALC Annual Conference, takes a similar theme as at paragraph 1 above, 'Shaping Suffolk – working together to make a better place to live.' It takes place in Ipswich on 18th November 11am – 4.30 pm. I can provide further details / book a place on request.

Peter Dow
21.10.2019