

A Summary Report for Edwardstone Annual Parish Meeting

16th May 2016

from James Finch – County Councillor for the Stour Valley

12 months of Achievements at Suffolk County Council - 2015 – 16

- **SCC freezes General Council Tax for sixth year in a row**

The council has made savings in excess of £170million since the Government's deficit reduction programme began in 2011/2012 and faces the need to make further savings of over £80million during the next two years. The budget passed in April saw a ZERO% increase in base Council Tax. The Administration decided to implement the 2% National Adult Social Care Levy to support the implementation of the National Living Wage. The budget for Adult Social Care and Children's Services increased. SCC has achieved its annual target savings for the current year.

- **Suffolk schools' ascent of league tables continues**

Figures out last month confirmed the trend of improvement in Suffolk's relative position in educational attainment. In data released by the government in January, Suffolk has climbed 18 places in the national league table for GCSE results since the previous year; from 125th to 107th. This means we are now at the national average.

- **Suffolk's Children's Services inspected rated Good by Ofsted**

Suffolk County Council's Children's Services have been inspected and rated GOOD by Ofsted following the publication of its inspection report on 15th February 2016. The report praises the work of the council in protecting and looking after children and young people, with some areas of outstanding practice highlighted in the report. The inspection was carried out between 23 November and 17 December 2015.

Suffolk now sits in the top 22% of local authorities in the country. 78 councils have been inspected so far under Ofsted's new framework. No authority has been judged outstanding and of the last 17 inspections across the country, just one authority had been judged GOOD, until Suffolk's rating.

- **Suffolk's Better Broadband BDUK programme**

Work had been completed on the 1st Contract of the Broadband rollout the 2nd contract of the Superfast Extension Programme (is progressing which is planned to enable 95% of properties in Suffolk are connected. The first phase of this rollout will be shared onto a map on the SCC website, and the second phase will be added within the next couple of months. To date, we have

enabled 35 cabinets, and reached over 3,000 premises under the Superfast Extension Programme towards a target of over 1,000 cabinets, and over 50,000 premises by the end of 2019.

- **£1bn Devolution Deal announced for East Anglia in the Budget on 16th March**

Following weeks of negotiation between Government and local councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), a deal worth over £1bn for East Anglia has been announced by George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget Speech on 16h March..

As part of the deal East Anglia would receive:

- £900m (£30m a year for the next 30 years) to invest in infrastructure
- £175m to invest in housing

The Deal, which sets out a fundamentally different relationship between Government and local public services, was negotiated by Leaders from councils across Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the New Anglia and Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough LEPs.

If ratified by the relevant councils and LEP Boards, The Deal would see decisions currently being made by Government on such things as infrastructure, growth, employment and skills being made locally in East Anglia in the future.

The Deal requires the creation of a Combined Authority and directly elected Mayor and it is proposed that the first mayoral elections would be in May 2017 alongside the county council elections.

The directly elected Mayor would act as Chairman to the East Anglia Combined Authority and would exercise the following powers and functions devolved from Government:

- Responsibility for a multi-year, consolidated and, devolved local transport budget.
- Responsibility for a new Key Route Network of local authority roads that will be managed and maintained by the Combined Authority on behalf of the Mayor.
- Powers over strategic planning and housing, including £175m ring-fenced funding to deliver an ambitious target of new homes.

15th May 2016

BABERGH – Highlights and Achievements for 2015/16

Financial/Organisational

- **Devolution** - Following weeks of negotiation between Government and local councils and LEPs a deal worth over £1bn for East Anglia was announced in the budget on the 16th March by George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer. As part of the deal East Anglia would receive:
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 - £175m to invest in housingThe Deal, which sets out a fundamentally different relationship between Government and local public services, was negotiated by Leaders from councils across Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the New Anglia and Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnerships. However it is important to note, it's not a 'done deal' it requires ratification by each of the local councils and the LEP boards. The Deal requires the creation of a Combined Authority and directly elected Mayor and it is proposed that the first mayoral elections would be in May 2017 alongside county council elections.
- **2016/17 Council budgets see small Council Tax rises.**
- **Elections.**
- **The Council's Joint Strategic Plan** is being refreshed following the election in May last year as the two new administrations wanted to review and update the strategies of the two Councils, in light of key local, regional and national factors that have changed since the Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) was developed in 2013/14. It will set out how the Councils aim to provide services to deliver positive, sustainable change in our individual and business communities over the next five years. A focused management review has been undertaken to ensure that we make the best use of our resources and direct them to the activities and interventions needed to secure delivery of our new Strategic Plan.
- **Capital Investment Strategy** – In July, both Council's approved a plan to invest the Councils' cash and capital resources to generate revenue income, achieve an increase in capital value in the longer term and stimulate local economic growth.

Housing

- **New Homes** - We have planning consent to build 27 new council homes supported by Homes and Communities Agency grant funding. These are the first houses to be built in a generation and will be completed by the end of 2016/17.
- **A revised tenancy agreement** was approved for Babergh's Council tenants.
- **Decent Homes Standard** - A targeted campaign has been launched to encourage landlords and homeowners to take up grants and loans to bring their homes up to the Decent Home Standard, that were made available under the Housing Renewal Policy approved by both councils in February 2015.
- **Empty Homes** - The private sector housing team's work to return empty homes to occupation has now expanded to include empty commercial buildings.
- **New Housing Allocations Policy** adopted.
- **Trusted Partner Pilot** - Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been chosen by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to participate in a Trusted Partner pilot scheme to identify tenants who may struggle to pay their rent, following the introduction of Universal Credit. The pilot will allow us to make appropriate recommendations for a payment of housing costs direct to the landlord, (known as an Alternative Payment Arrangement (APA)). The pilot will last between six and nine months and started in January 2016.
- **Help to Buy** - Council tenants who want to buy their own homes are being urged to apply for £20k grants to help them onto the property ladder. Both councils were successful in apply for funding from the Government's £84m Right-To-Buy social Mobility Fund which was launched last year.

- **Right to Buy** - We have re-invested Right to Buy (RTB) receipts in 4 properties with a further 6 in the pipeline. A total of £1,580,495 of RTB receipts committed.
- **Houses in Multiple Occupation** - The Private Sector Housing Team has begun a programme of identifying and inspecting Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) across the two councils. A HMO is a property that is shared by three or more tenants who are not members of the same family.
- **Sheltered Housing Review** - It has been some five years since this service was last reviewed. People are living longer and we need to make sure that the service we offer meets the needs of residents now and in the future, whilst also providing value for money. As part of the review, we consulted residents to get their views on the service, what they like, what they don't like, what we could do better etc. We conducted 25 separate tenant involvement events with our Sheltered Residents at 22 different locations across the two districts.

Growth/Business

- **CIL** - In January both councils voted to adopt CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) charging in the districts. Charging will start on 11th April meaning that any planning permission granted on or after this date may be liable to pay CIL. The Infrastructure Team will be providing further information over the coming months and at Parish Liaison meetings with further details on what CIL charging means for communities and how you can take advantage of the opportunities it presents.
- **Neighbourhood Plan** - 15 parishes across Babergh and Mid Suffolk have expressed interest in developing neighbourhood plans.
- **Tourism Strategy** - Suffolk Economic Portfolio Holders have agreed the Suffolk Tourism Strategy. The Strategy aims to support a county wide brand (Visit Suffolk) and support creating Destination Management Organisations.
- **Business Awards** - 3 Mid Suffolk and 1 Babergh business received awards at the EADT Business Awards on Thursday evening 9 July.
- **Food Enterprise Zones** - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have each been awarded a grant to set up two new Food Enterprise Zones – one in Wherstead called the **Orwell Food Enterprise Zone** and the other at the Mill Lane Business Park in Stowmarket called the **Gipping Food Enterprise Zone**.
- **Enterprise Zones** - Last November the chancellor announced that Babergh and Mid Suffolk, together with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership secured two of the Government's prestigious Enterprise Zones. One in Sproughton, and another one in Stowmarket.
- **Joint Local Plan** - We are seeking to develop a Joint Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk (both Councils currently have separate policies) and have briefed Councillors on our intended approach. We have started a detailed conversation with Councillors (the cluster meetings) on how the district wide housing targets may resonate at a local level. This includes a conversation about the impact of growth on infrastructure, facilities and the service improvement opportunities that arise. There will be an ongoing dialogue with Councillors as the plan progresses.
- **Planning** - The Development Management team has changed and now forms three officer teams to serve specific areas within both Babergh and Mid Suffolk. The teams will over time establish improved local connections with the areas they cover with the support of their dedicated officers. A new fourth start up team has also been formed to ensure much faster registering and validation of applications and enquiries. This is the first step of a number of planned improvements for Development Management in the next year to ensure clear routes of communication for consultees, members, parish councils, residents and developers.

Communities

- **Community Caretaker Scheme Pilot Rolled Out.**
- **Joint Community Achievement Awards.** We will be delivering a single event for both Mid Suffolk and Babergh Councils this year. This is due to be held on 21st April 2016 at Wherstead Park and will celebrate the achievements of 29 unsung heroes who have worked tirelessly to make a difference within our communities.
- **Capital Grants** are provided to the community to support village halls, community centres, sports clubs, community shops and events. In 2015/16 £104,355 was allocated across Babergh. Against a total project cost of £420,649, our support of 25% grant allocation levered in a further 75% funding for our communities.
- **Health and Housing Pilot** - A key aspect of our contribution to improving health and wellbeing within our district is our collaborative approach with partners. With funding from Public Health, we are in the process of designing an innovative and unique new health and wellbeing offer to a sample of tenants in Hadleigh and Needham Market. The pilot project will provide different levels of support and a range of community-based health and wellbeing interventions that we expect will address the council's rent and council tax arrears, improve self-reported wellbeing and in addition, to contribute to reduced demand on local health and care services.

Environment & Environmental Health

- **Improved Joint Working** across the whole waste system in Suffolk with a joint project being developed across all Suffolk local authorities through the Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP).
- **New waste contracts** - Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils undertook two successful tendering processes with the Suffolk Waste Partnership. One for the servicing of all of the recycling bring sites across the County, which was awarded to Indigo Waste Services Ltd (IWS), and one for all garden waste, awarded to Material Change based in Creeting St Mary.
- **The Open for Business project (OfB)** will improve the experience of businesses working with the Councils' regulatory services by changing organisational culture; putting business customers' experiences at the heart of our ways of working and; ensuring businesses understand what their responsibilities are. A business account manager pilot has established a single point of contact to a business enquiry.
- **Open for Business - Better Business Event.** A successful business engagement event was held. The business facing services of the councils along with representatives of the New Anglia Growth Hub and chambers of commerce were available for businesses based in the Mid Suffolk area to talk to. This was intended to be the first of these events with a view to perhaps making future ones more sector-specific.
- **Photovoltaic Panels (PV)** have been installed across a number of properties.
- **Energy Efficiency** - £6m helping businesses in Norfolk and Suffolk to become more energy efficient.
- **Healthier Catering Award** - The Suffolk Healthier Catering Award 'Eat Out Eat Well (EOEW)' was launched. Catering businesses can apply for three levels of award, gold, silver and bronze. The gold award will generally require a member of the catering business staff to have a formal qualification in nutrition; training that the Food and Safety team at BMSDC are now offering. The motivation behind initiating this award in Suffolk is twofold. With obesity a significant problem, there was a mandate from the Health and Wellbeing Board with the public health driver clear. The award also gives catering food businesses an opportunity to differentiate themselves and potentially create a recognised additional ethical selling point whether to employees in the case of staff canteens or to the public if a café or restaurant.

May 2016



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY

YOUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM REPORT SUDBURY SNT

COVERING The wards of Boxford, Brett Vale, Bures St Mary, Chadacre, Glemsford & Stanstead, Great Cornard North, Great Cornard South, Lavenham, Leavenheath, Long Melford, North Cosford, Sudbury East, Sudbury North, Sudbury South, Waldingfield.

TBC INCIDENTS RECEIVED

TBC INVESTIGATIONS RECORDED

YOU SAID...

1. Reduce the number of burglaries in sheds and garages in Sudbury, Gt Cornard and surrounding villages.
2. Tackle Anti social behaviour at sports ground in Long Melford

WE DID...

1. An operation was commissioned and additional resources requested. A further three arrests were made on 22nd April of people involved in similar crimes. All are currently on conditional bail pending investigation. Offence's have significantly reduced now and so we will consider the continuation of the operation during coming weeks.
2. 'Safer Neighbourhood Team' officers have carried out regular patrols during reported problem times. no issues witnessed at this time but will continue to monitor.

STATISTICS SUFFOLK POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES

FIGURES FOR Not Available- May 16

Burglary Dwelling

-

Robbery

-

Violence with Injury

-

Serious Sexual Offences

-

Drug Trafficking

-

Anti-Social Behaviour

-



FUTURE EVENTS

As part of the Suffolk local Policing review, the SNT will be looking at new ways to engage with their communities. Further details to follow.

Monday 9th May - Sudbury Soup Kitchen 12-2pm

Saturday 28th May - Meet your SNT at Market Hill 9.30am - 12pm - Come and say Hello.



FURTHER INFORMATION

From the 4th April 2016 Sudbury Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) has a brand new look and focuses on those issues that can affect local residents, visitors and organisations in Sudbury and the surrounding area. Each member of the team now has an additional 'specialist link role' for those issues that most commonly affect our community. If you, or if you know someone, who needs our help then please call using one of the appropriate numbers below.....

SGT 1455 Matt Paisley

PC 1380 Simon Bourne
Domestic Violence

PC 1337 Verity Pearson
Anti-social Behaviour

PC 1720 Rob Sippitt
Licensing

PCSO 3198 Andrea Campbell
Mental Health

PCSO 3226 Jamie Fudge
Children Homes and the Chronically Excluded

PCSO 3307 Grant Skeggs
Schools Officer/Young Persons & Anti-Social Behaviour

PCSO 3157 Jackie Barrett
Retail and licensing PCSO

PCSO 3263 Laura Mansell
Domestic Violence & Crime Reduction

POINT OF CONTACT

YOUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM



SGT 1455 Matt Paisley

SUDBURY



101/999



sudbury.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk



Making Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest



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FURTHER INFORMATION

Inspector Danny Cooper -

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter which has replaced the old town and parish council reports following the Suffolk local policing review.

Local crime information is still unavailable at this time. Our analytical team are working on the data now and I have been informed by headquarters that the data will be available for the June newsletter.

If you need to get in touch to discuss a long term issue or would like to suggest a priority, please do so using the contact details above. In an emergency, dial 999.

Thank You

THIS SNT COVERS THE PARISHES OF:

ACTON, ALPHETON, ASSINGTON, BILDESTON, BOXFORD, BOXTED, BRENT ELEIGH, BRETENHAM, BURES ST MARY, CHELSWORTH, CHILTON, COCKFIELD, EDWARDSTONE, GLEMSFORD, GREAT CORNARD, GROTON, GT WALDINGFIELD, HARTEST, HITCHAM, KETTLEBASTON, LAVENHAM, LAWSHALL, LEAVENHEATH, LINDSEY, LITTLE CORNARD, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD, LONG MELFORD, MILDEN, MONKS ELEIGH, NEWTON, PRESTON ST MARY, SHIMPLING, SOMERTON, STANSTEAD, SUDBURY, THORPE MORIEUX, WATTISHAM.



**SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY**



Accounts for 2015 - For Annual Presentation to Parish Council

CREDIT			DEBIT	
*Income from Hirings	2213.87		*General maintenance etc	2830.87
Parish Council Grant	700.00			
Sub-total	2913.87		Sub Total	2830.87
Fund raising:			Car Park	1860.00
Garden Plants	480.00		Hall Painting	1760.00
155 Club	350.00		Disabled ramp repainting	116.88
Grants and donations	1953.00			3736.88
Bank Interest	15.92			
Sub Total	2798.92		Sub Total	3736.88
	2913.87			2830.87
	2798.92			3736.88
TOTAL	5712.79		TOTAL	6567.75

Deficit for year - £854.96

*Breakdown of totals			*Breakdown of totals	
Hirings			General maintenance:	
Bookings	1924.37		Insurance	634.38
Equipment Hire	289.50		Weekly Cleaning + Windows	589.88
Total	2213.87		Water	75.46
			Eurofire	51.74
			Electricity	842.00
	-6567.75	L	Licences	111.60
	5712.79		Misc	28.87
Deficit for year	-854.96		Rates	39.44
			CAS Membership	30.00
			Electrical Testing	427.50
				2830.87

THE EDWARDSTONE ALMSHOUSES & OTHER CHARITIES

The following is a statement, to the Edwardstone Parish Council Annual Meeting
of the accounts of the above Charities, for the financial year to 31.03.16.

The income is derived from long and short investments and rent for the land at Polstead.

INCOME

PAYMENTS

Investments	1947.50	Expenses	0
Rent	1560.00	Grants	1000.00
Wayleave	115.75	Christmas Gifts	480.00
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	3623.25		1480.00
Balance B/F	2738.36	Balance at 31.03.15	2154.11
Bus Prem. A/C	5176.12	Bus Prem. A/C	7903.62
	3623.25		1480.00
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	11537.73		11537.73
	<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

Edwardstone Parish Council – Financial Report 2015-16

At the start of the financial year the Council had £3989 in its bank accounts. At the end it had £4931. We had budgeted to spend £250 on Councillor training, and any clerk's update training that was required, but no training was undertaken. In addition, we had budgeted £250 towards the cost of a new laptop to replace the Council's 9 year old model which was at the end of its useful life. In the event we were able to obtain a grant from the Transparency Fund to cover the cost of the new laptop. There were also several uncleared grant cheques.

There is currently around £2,500 in the reserve account. This money is effectively a contingency fund and is available for use if required. As at 31 March there was £3778 in the current account, and this was increased by £2843 (being half the precept plus a small grant) received in April, with the other half to be received in September.

The Council is therefore in a reasonable financial position which is why it chose not to increase the precept again for 2016-17.

Anita Robinson
Responsible Financial Officer
May 2016