

County Councillor Report



February 2023

Palgrave Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division. Tel. 07714-597980 Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk

The 'County Deal' Update – Councillors were offered an opportunity to put questions directly to Michael Gove, MP which confirmed that a deal would require a directly elected County Leader; the likely time frame for election and implementation is 2025. Neighbouring counties Norfolk and Essex have signed the same provisional agreement and we are working closely with them. Details and public consultation are planned before debate and a decision at full council.


Council Budget 2023/ 24 - the budget was passed by Council on 9th February. Overall expenditure will rise by 9.6% from £625.3m to £685.3m. Additional funds come from a 3.99% increase in Council Tax (1.99% general Council Tax and 2.00% dedicated to adult social care). Council taxes per household rise by:

Band B property: total £22.32 per week (85 pence per week increase from 2022-23)

Band D property: total £28.70 per week (£1.10 pence per week increase from 2022-23)

Traffic Congestion around the Primary School – The problem has been brought to my attention and a meeting is planned next week with County Highways to assess options.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service inspection rated "Good" - An independent inspection was undertaken last spring when inspectors conducted a comprehensive review of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, a report published on 20 January praised many aspects of the Service. The Council 2023-24 budget allocates £5.3m for fleet replacement, including purchase of 20 new fire engines.

Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan – a link to the SCEP Newsletter follows: [Highlights Newsletter - Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan](#)  (mailchi.mp)

The Hold / Suffolk Archives commemorating 'When the Sea Came in' 70 years ago - An event was held at The Hold on Ipswich Waterfront was on 4th February to mark 70 years since the great Ipswich Flood. For information about what is on at The Hold visit: www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/whats-on/

Fostering and Adoption – Currently there are 900 children in foster homes across the county and this increases each year and there is an urgent need to recruit more foster carers for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). To find out more about Fostering with Suffolk: visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/fostering call us on: 01473 264800. Or attend our virtual information event on Wednesday 22nd February, 7pm, Email fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk to register.

Memorial Service for Councillor Graham Newman on Saturday 25th February - It is with great sadness that this council remembers Cllr Graham Newman who sadly passed away on 28 December 2022 following a short illness. Graham had represented Felixstowe Coastal since 2005. He was a Cabinet member, chaired several committees, and went on to become Chairman of the Council from October 2020 until May 2022 spanning most of the COVID pandemic. Graham will be long remembered for his calm assurance, humour and integrity.