**Divisions: THEDWASTRE STH**

**County Council Details**

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# **Parish Report –JANUARY 2023**

# **Councillor: PENNY OTTON**

For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving). Latest SCC COVID information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk or ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

**Budget! Budget! Budget!**

The first proposals for the 2023/24 budget have been released. SCC plan to increase tax by 3.99% (1.99% increase in Council Tax, 2% increase in Social Care Precept).

Conservative administration had opportunities to prepare Instead, they rejected our proposals last year to increase funding for social care – which has resulted in a sharp increase in tax this year for residents.

**County Deal Update**

National government met with Suffolk County Council to sign a provisional County Deal. The Deal will agree to devolve additional powers and funding to the County, including housing, transport and adult education.

The Deal has been lauded as a momentous, however our Group believes that this Deal has been massively overstated. The headline ‘£480m’ is in fact over **30 years** – equating to only around £16m a year. The Conservative Council Leader promised we wouldn’t have a Mayor; however, the deal agrees to create a Mayoral Development Corporation. Politically, there is a real risk of stagnation – with the elected Mayor potentially from one party and the majority of Councillors from another.

Our Group are strongly in favour of devolving national powers to local authorities. There was a real opportunity to make a difference here, but our Group sees the current deal as merely a token gesture

For our full press release, visit our website: <https://suffolkgli.wordpress.com/2022/12/12/suffolks-county-deal-big-deal/>

**New SCC Website**

Suffolk County Council have launched their new website. The new site is aimed to be easier and simpler. I understand that this is often the first point of contact for residents and so it is important the website continues to engage and adapt to the needs of the Suffolk communities.

If you have problems let them or me know.

To see the new site, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/>

**Modern Slavery**

As the Council’s modern slavery annual statement was voted through cabinet, SCC have released an information bulletin to report any possible signs of modern slavery within your local communities.

General signs of modern slavery can’t include: Isolation, restricted movement, poor living conditions, unusual travel arrangements, and physical appearance of abuse. If you suspect a modern slavery crime is being committed, but there is no immediate risk of harm, you can report it to the Policeon**101**, or the [Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline](https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/) on **0800 121 700 –** if there is immediate danger, phone **999**.

For further contact, email: community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-safety/modern-slavery>

**Suffolk looks for more hosts!**

Suffolk is looking for new hosts to help support refugees. Accommodation must be available to guests for a minimum of 6 months. Hosts will be eligible to receive the £350 thank you payment for up to 6 months or more, depending on the date your guests arrived in the UK (12 months starting from the date your guests first arrived in the UK).
If you know anyone that might be interested, please encourage them sign up via the Suffolk County Council website, or by emailing **refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk**.

A14 WORKS; you should have received info on the proposed work and closure of any slip roads and future work on the concrete section. When the work to replace the concrete section due to start in February there will be major disruption and diversions

POLICE PRECEPT SURVEY FOR COMMENTS; sent to clerk.

GRIT BINS; these should have been refilled, if not let me or highways know. On gritting were there roads that failed to be gritted last month?

MIDSUFFOLK.

GRANTS FOR ADAPTIONS TO HOMES; once again this has been significantly underspent. If you or anyone you know could do with smaller adaptions to their home, please let Mid Suffolk know. They are not means tested up to the cost of £7,500. Larger work could be eligible but worth talking to the council. Please can this be promoted.

COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION. 100% Reduction for those on universal credit and other benefits, has been agreed . there is also a proposal that there will be no increase in MSDC part of council tax this year. To be confirmed in February

BROWN BIN CHARGES; these however will increase as will charges for dog bin emptying

COUNCIL HOUSE REVIEW; To check all heating, electrical installations and asbestos. Many still do have carbon monoxide monitors!!!

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