

Parish Report – September 2023

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Councillor

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Motion denied on safer speeds on Suffolk roads

At Council on Thursday 13 July, my group proposed a motion for lowering speed limits on rural roads where the safe speed is clearly lower than the current National Speed Limit. The motion suggested that on these roads, a lower speed limit than 60mph would encourage many drivers to slow to a more appropriate, safer speed, thereby reducing accidents and making roads safer for all users. This motion was voted down by the SCC administration without debate.

Motion passed on upholding minimum parking standards

The Council meeting on 13 July also discussed a motion proposed by the SCC administration to uphold minimum parking standards in new developments in the county. This motion was passed by the council, although our group observed that it was difficult for Highways planning officers to object to development plans unless the impact of the plans could show to be severe. It was agreed that the council had a real opportunity to shape plans for local communities by making sure residents' concerns were taken into account when in consultation with developers.

Annual Safeguarding Reports

At Cabinet on 11 July, annual reports were tabled on safeguarding adults and children in the county. Some of the issues raised included mental health of children and young people, and for adults, self neglect and hoarding. If you have concerns about the safety of a child, young person or adult, you can make a safeguarding referral by contacting Suffolk County Council's Customer First on 0808 800 4005 or by emailing customer.first@suffolk.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report and Children in Care Council

The annual report assesses how well the council is doing in this role. The Cabinet also received a report from the Children in Care council (C2C and Brighter Futures) who outlined the work they had been undertaking during the year, including interviewing applicants for CYP social care roles, campaigning for 'Care Experienced' to be a Protected Characteristic, and the Watch Your Words campaign to change some of the language used by practitioners around care experienced young people.

NEW FIRE AND RESCUE TRAINING CENTRE; Suffolk fire and rescue service now have a new training centre at Wattisham.

FIRE SERVICE SUMMER SAFETY ADVICE; details sent which would be good to publicise

RAAC; 4 schools have been identified to have a problem. I have asked about Thruston community college; Work on this was done in 2019, but I have asked assurance that there is no more an issue.

Dental Services in the County

Health Scrutiny Committee met on 12 July to look at dental services in the county, amid news reports that 9 in 10 dental practices in the UK were not accepting new NHS

patients. NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) in the county have been working with providers to improve services, aiming to ensure that 10% of dental work undertaken is urgent dental work. There are also plans to develop a brand-new Centre for Dental Development at the University of Suffolk in Ipswich which will train new dentists and dental nurses to improve numbers of practitioners.

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