

ANNUAL Parish Report 2017

Councillor

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SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET; this was agreed on 17th Feb. there was an amendment to put back the cut to the library service, to children's centres, highways maintenance, concessionary fare support, hedge and verge cutting and post 16 travel which I was happy to support. After a long and bad tempered debate this was defeated and the original budget agreed by a majority. This includes the 3% rise for social care.

DEVOLUTION; this time last year this was the "big thing", however with various Norfolk councils voting against the proposals it is now left to the minister to make any decision.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT/ BUSES; following the change to the contract it is obviously there are real problems. I and the parish council have been trying to get the council and contractor to change.

HIGHWAYS; with another year of poor service the council has agreed to adopt a risk-based approach to repair work i.e. higher risk on A roads, this means potholes on minor roads may be take longer to be dealt with. Having got the council to change the speed limit on Finborough road from 60mph to 40mph there were no objections so hopefully it will be implemented asap.

We will continue to try to get the speed limit extended on the high road. I have objected to the planning application on Union road, but have insisted that if it does get permission Combs Lane should be made a B road which would mean it would be manged more regularly.

REVIEW OF WASTE FACILITY IN STOWMARKET ; There is concern that it is closed on Wednesdays and the increase in fly-tipping. The council is actively looking for a new site.

NEW COUNCIL; following the elections on 4th May the new leader and cabinet members will be agreed at the annual meeting on 25th May.

I hope I have been able to assist you to get things done, and thank you for your help over the past year. I am of course delighted to have been re-elected as your county councillor.