

Report of County Councillor Judy Cloke to Bungay and Wainford parishes for November 2023

Bungay:

I was delighted and honoured to be asked by James Walker to attend the 'For Valour' event at the Fisher Theatre on 9 November. The stories we were told were terrifying , humbling and inspirational at the same time.

I have commissioned from Suffolk Highways two further traffic surveys in the town, one on Flixton Road by Three Willows, where I have also asked the District Cllrs to arrange a noise assessment (this is a District rather than County responsibility, I am advised) and another in Bridge Street. The recent statements to the press by residents of Bridge Street about traffic volumes weight and speed are not supported by the stats from the previous survey in the Autumn of 2022, so after discussion with Wayne our local Highways engineer, we have decided to obtain more information. We had both hoped these would have been in place by now, but they are due to be installed in January.

I am pleased to see the scaffolding has returned to the King's Head and work was underway last time I looked.

I have again complained how the water accumulates at the Messenger gates when there is any rain , I seem to be going round in circles on this but last week mentioned it to Cllr Matthew Hicks, the Leader and he has asked me to send the details to him.

As last year, I pulled together a Chocolate tombola for the evening of the Christmas Lights' switch on and was given some contributions by Cllr Betts , which was kind. Having tested for COVID on the day I was unable to run the stall myself, so Councillors stepped in and I was able to give £150 to Bungay TC towards the Christmas lights' treasure chest. Many thanks to those who helped on the evening and those who supported by buying tickets. There will be a similar event in the run up to Easter in the Library in support of the Friends' group.

Barsham and Shipmeadow:

I have used the Portal to report and received reports from residents about the flooding which has been occurring in the road outside Barsham Rigg. I was told on 28 November three gullies would be cleared within the following 2 days . I've not been to check but as I have heard no more assume the work has been carried out.

I was contacted by a resident who told me lorries leaving Barsham treatment works were turning towards Bungay then reversing into the old treatment works in order to turn towards Beccles. (they cannot turn right directly from the site) I have reported this to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste who has in turn taken this up with the Highways team . A visit has been made , but evidence of these manoeuvres was not obvious so they will be writing to the developer. I have asked the resident to take photographs which can be used as evidence.

Mettingham:

Following recent flooding incidents where a good deal of water has washed off the fields and swamped the roads , parish councillors and I met a couple of Highways engineers on site in Low Road . I understand some potholes have been mended and there is a specialist section of the Highways team which looks specifically at liaising with farmers to try and prevent run off.

St Cross:

I spent an hour with two Cllrs from St Cross, again looking at flooding which I have reported to the Highways team, I know the request for action has been read , but I await the report from the engineer. We also discussed the recent Suffolk wide Quiet lanes project , I have made further enquiries about this and the funding has now run out, but if any parish wishes to register in case there is a scheme in the future, do let me know.

Flixton :

There has been further delay in the installation of signs ordered by Flixton JPC , I have been in touch with Highways about it again this morning .

Ellough:**Mutford:**

Angela, Parish Clerk to Mutford has brought to my attention the fact the AD plant site owners have submitted revised plans for their proposed plant at Ellough , which I would recommend you look at; this planning proposal has not yet come to the Development and Regulation committee.

Ilketshall St Andrew:

I attended an online meeting between the LMC and RES , the solar developers, which was very interesting. It was an information meeting as much as anything, specifically regarding potential management of traffic to and from the proposed western site.

Suffolk wide :**Libraries**

The consultation about the Library contract is underway , residents can have their say by visiting www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation before Friday 26 January 2024. I would encourage everyone to complete this

Easy-read and translated versions are available at the above website.

Alternative formats of the consultation are available on request, please email: Libraries.consultation@suffolk.gov.uk

Those who cannot access the consultation online can request a printed copy or assistance with completing the survey by calling 0345 603 1842.

Highways:

In November, Suffolk County Council's cabinet approved an extra £10 million to repair and resurface local roads in villages and residential areas across Suffolk.

4.7 million litres of water has been pumped away and 8,412 highways drains cleared of post-storm debris since Storm Babet hit Suffolk one month ago.

The scale of work undertaken since the storm includes:

- Clearing and jetting of 8,412 drains
- Removing 121 trees blocking roads
- Cleared flood water from 198 locations
- Repairing 1,200 road and pavement potholes
- Contacting landowners about blocked private watercourses and roadside ditches, which are generally their responsibility to maintain.

The areas worst hit by the storm, including Debenham, Framlingham, Needham Market and Cavendish have all had their drains blitzed to clear tonnes of silt, leaves and other debris that has been washing into them as flood waters have subsided.

After drains are cleared, water from large tankers is run through them to check they are operating and if they are not, high pressure jets can be brought in to clear any blockages. In extreme cases, cameras are used to locate hidden blockages and then work is scheduled to dig up the pipes and fix the issues.

Budget:

Suffolk County Council has just launched an online consultation as we plan our budget for next year, and we would welcome your thoughts: www.suffolk.gov.uk/budget

Norwich to Tilbury pylons

Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk County Council leaders are urging National Grid to reconsider their preferred onshore option following findings of a recent review.

The councils jointly commissioned and have now published an independent report into the Norwich to Tilbury project, which proposes the construction of a new high voltage electricity transmission line between Norwich in Norfolk, Bramford in Suffolk and Tilbury in Essex.

Leaders of the three county councils are now asking National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and the electricity system planner, National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) to consider the findings.

Suffolk Awards have been launched

The Awards, organised by Suffolk County Council, recognise the incredibly valuable environmental work that is being done throughout Suffolk, by bringing people together, sharing ideas and inspiring one another.

This year, nominations for those working in agriculture and farming are particularly welcome.

Categories for the 2024 Awards are:

- Waste Reduction and Recycling Award
- Enhancing Biodiversity and Landscape Award
- Greenest Business Award
- Greenest Small Business Award
- Greenest Community Award
- Green Hero Award (People's Choice award)
- Greenest School Award
- Green Tourism Award

Nominations are now [open online](#) and close on 31 January 2024, with winners announced at an event to be held on 27 March 2024, at The Hold in Ipswich.

May I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and New Year, for all faiths and none

Judy Cloke

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