

## December report to Bungay and Wainford Parishes.

This report is rather later in the month than I intended therefore I will not be issuing one at the end of December. I was away for a week at the beginning of November, so missed some meetings and events

County .

One of the biggest things to happen in Suffolk was the signing of a provisional ' minded to' deal for the County 's devolution . The deal sets out the Government's plans to devolve more power to Suffolk via investment, housing , education , transport and the environment . There would also be a directly elected Council leader ( not Mayor as announced by the Chancellor in his Autumn statement. This will be the first deal of its kind between the Government and a County Council. There will have to be a full public consultation. There was an article about this in the EADT on 6 December.

Over 24,000 tonnes of salt is stocked at various locations across the County . During the 21.22 winter season , the County's 49 gritting lorries used 9,388 tonnes of salt to treat 129,367 miles of road . The teams are committed to gritting 36 priority routes ( P1 ) which are A&B roads, roads to hospitals and fire stations, main bus routes and rail stations , amounting to 1,259 miles and 34 P" routes which are 843 miles of other bus routes, roads leading to rural villages and access to schools. P1 routes are completed when the road surface temperatures are forecast to fall below 1 degree and P2 when there is a forecast of a longer period of hazardous conditions. Grit bins have also been filled and the Highways teams rely on members of the public to let them know when levels are getting low.

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/wintermatters](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/wintermatters)

A project aiming to replace all 43,400 streetlights across Suffolk with sustainable , longer lasting and cost saving bulbs is nearing completion. It has saved more than £2.5m so far.

It was announced on 3<sup>rd</sup> November ground breaking new guidelines for developers to help them design sustainable and low carbon neighbourhoods have been launched by SCC.

Workers at ABP's port of Ipswich have plugged into an e-bike initiative with SCC, the Port is the first employer to get involved like this and has taken delivery of 8 bikes .

Suffolk County Council has also launched an all age Carers' Strategy, developed with young adults and adult carers across Suffolk offering them support in their roles. An action plan will be developed and delivered in the next few months which will provide more detail.

Creating the Greenest County awards for 2023 has ben launched for the 12<sup>th</sup> time to celebrate the achievements of Suffolk residents, businesses schools communities and organisations who are protecting our environment and reducing their carbon emissions.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November it was announced 7,526 trees will be planted across Suffolk this winter; £138,219 will come to the county as one of the 100 grants under the government's Authority Treescapes' fund – the funding is for planting the trees and for 3 years' maintenance , something which is often forgotten when people plant trees.

Last Friday I attended a full day Group meeting to discuss the budget with the various teams . Despite there being more noughts than I would normally be familiar with , the teams who made the

presentations were very clear with their explanations and plainly worked extremely hard in making what they were saying comprehensible to the lay person.

District .

My Assistant Cabinet role in helping refugees continues. I have met some people across the District to try and help them and generally the outcomes have been good, although sometimes situations are rather complicated and it is not easy to find a straightforward solution, especially when a refugee has a job, or their children are settled in a local school, they do not want to move house. Our housing team works exceptionally hard and I will often receive emails late at night.

At the Community Partnership Board meeting last week we learned there is now some funding available to 'future proof' village halls and community buildings within the District. This is something I have been concerned about for many months and Sam and I have discussed it frequently. I also raised it at a CP Board meeting months ago, so I am glad there is some funding available now. It is not a huge amount, but there will be a small team of officers to help advise community groups and village hall committees. The idea is to improve the quality of Community buildings to make them warmer and more affordable. I will keep you posted as the scheme develops.

Following the heavy rain on 16/17 November and flooding on the B1062, I took our local Highways officer to look at the worst spots which I had driven through that morning, he is working to get the gullies cleared and to see what can be done to mitigate the settling of rainwater on the road. Sadly on the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> I also came across the fatal accident at Barsham. The floods had subsided by then and though the road surface was wet because it was still raining, there was no standing water.

The review of traffic flow in Bungay Town Centre is now complete. What we need to do now is to sit down with the Highways team and discuss what to do next.

Nominations for the East Suffolk Awards 2023 are now open. More information can be found here: [awards website](#).

A new Field to Fork initiative has been launched, closing date is 18 Dec [communities@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:communities@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) and there are many other initiatives to help with the current cost of living crisis, all of which can be found via the link above.

I will not be sending cards this Christmas again, instead I will make a donation to the RNLI. As I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and happy New Year,

Judy Cloke

One of the District Councillors for Bungay and Wainford Ward and County Councillor for the Bungay Division