

District Councillors' Report for Westhorpe Parish Council – November 2020

With the second lockdown imminent, Councils across Suffolk have reintroduced some Covid measures:

The **Home, But Not Alone** phonenumber, which supports vulnerable people in our communities who may be struggling with the impact of Coronavirus, is now live again. The service was paused in August because of low call demand and the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. However, in light of the national lockdown, the service is now up and running again. The telephone number is freephone **0800 876 6926** and will be staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. This phonenumber was absolutely vital during the first lockdown and it only right that the same support is on offer as we head into the next wave of lockdown. It helped thousands of people, who often didn't have a network of family or friends to call upon, access emergency support such as food and medicine deliveries and befriending schemes. The success of the service relied on the amazing local networks that sprung up across towns and villages in Suffolk and looked after those most in need.

This Home, But Not Alone phonenumber compliments The **Suffolk Advice and Support Service** phonenumber (0800 068 3131) which helps those with debt, benefits, employment or housing worries. This phonenumber, also delivered by the Collaborative Communities Covid-19 Board, is staffed by the Citizens Advice Suffolk Alliance, which includes the eight Citizens Advice Bureaus across Suffolk, and Anglia Care Trust and Ipswich Housing Action Group. Call handlers use resources and information from across many Suffolk organisations and specialist providers, which can be tailored to individual needs.

The latest draft of the **Joint Local Plan** has just been published, ahead of discussion at full Council on 11th November and submission to a government inspector early in 2021. Westhorpe residents will be pleased to know that the site opposite the village hall, which was included within the settlement boundary in the previous draft, has now been removed – i.e. the proposed new settlement boundary runs along the road at this point. This does not rule out development here – the landowner could still put in a new application before the JLP is fully adopted. However, given the grounds cited for turning down the previous application, and with the new proposed settlement boundary, it has become less likely.

The draft JLP can be found in the tabled papers for the council meeting at:

[Mid Suffolk Extraordinary Council Agenda](#)

Councillor Andy Mellen

Andrew.Mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk

01449 782971 / 07790 992619