

Parish Report – January 2021

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Division: Thedwastre North

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Latest SCC Covid information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

SCC budget for 2022/23

Full details of the proposed budget will be available later this month. The Cabinet met on the 7th December and voted unanimously to approve additional investment in highway drainage and footway infrastructure. £10m has been approved to replace broken pipes, as well as new installations, and £10m has been approved to increase the maintenance of selected footways. The Cabinet also voted to approve Suffolk County Council's new Housing Joint Venture. The Council wish to enter a contractual agreement with a private developer, aiming to deliver up to 3,000 new homes across Suffolk.

Scrutiny Meeting on SEND Report

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met to discuss the damning SEND report, which outlined the various failings of the local service in dealing with children with special needs and disabilities. A new report from the SEND services was presented, which included progress on improving the service. This included extended training, newly appointed managerial posts, and new accountability structures to help deal with the issues outlined in the previous report. Our Group brought up issues of a lack of representation, and asked for a wider pool of representatives.

Investment in Firefighting Equipment

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has recently added to its lifesaving kit – reinforcing the service's commitment to protecting its staff and Suffolk residents. A significant investment has enabled improved digital radios, smoke hoods and smoke curtains to be provided to every fire crew in the county. This equipment can be used in a range of incidents, with it already proving invaluable in Lowestoft, when two occupants were rescued after a kitchen fire. Although crews are ready to attend emergencies with this new kit, it's important that every home has its own lifesaving equipment – smoke alarms, which should be fitted and tested regularly.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/significant-investment-in-firefighting-equipment-secures-safer-future-for-suffolk>

Free Bus and Taxi Services for All Travelling for a Vaccination

Stuart Keeble, the Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council, expanded the 'Vaxi Taxi' service to all members of the public. The original campaign was for those who were strictly eligible, but the Council has opened up the offer to anyone who needs it, in order to get to their appointment for a first, second or booster vaccination.

For a list of the taxi companies who have signed up to the scheme, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/GetVaccinated - or for further information, go to <https://sneevaccine.org.uk/>

'Support Social Care' Campaign

A new campaign was released in December aimed at helping the public understand more about the Social Care sector in Suffolk. The campaign wants to celebrate care professionals, and asks the public for patience and flexibility whilst the Council navigates through another tough winter.

On average, Suffolk County Council receives 551 calls per day from people receiving adult social care, and over Christmas there were around 1,200 care home staff working to ensure Residential and Nursing Homes had a good Christmas.

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