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## **Tattingstone Parish Council**

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7.30pm in Tattingstone Village Hall.**

**Present: Cllr. Wood, Cllr. Tweedy, Cllr. Gipps, Cllr. Mendel, Cllr. Dearing**

**D. Cllr. Gould**

**Ms M Rawlins – Suffolk Records**

**Ms A Proctor – Tattingstone Speedwatch**

**Members of public: 8**

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Cllr. Clark, Cllr Hawes, Cllr Clarke

**2. Declaration of interest.**

none

**3. To consider requests for dispensation.**

N/A.

**4. To approve, as accurate, minutes of meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019**

Proposed: Cllr. Gipps

Seconded: Cllr. Tweedy

Carried unanimously

**5. To receive Clerk's Report.**

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- Clerk completed survey on new system of only internal audit for smaller authorities which is much better and more thorough by SALC
- There is an open meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable at Ipswich Community Centre on 31.10.19 at 7.00pm. – circulated
- Babergh has published new annual five-year housing supply report. They demonstrated 5.67 year supply
- Clerk has received an email from Josh Holmes, community officer at Babergh DC inquiring whether we would like more information and/or possible meeting regarding Community Housing. [passed to Cllr Gipps]
- Unfortunately, none of the people we suggested for Suffolk Community awards were chosen.
- Clerk has received an email from a local resident about a bridleway being nearly completely blocked off to cyclists and horses. She has contacted the landowner and is awaiting a reply.
- The Clerk sent a letter of condolences to Capel St Mary PC on Council's behalf after the sad death in a house fire of 2 residents
- Amendments have been received to the Suffolk Mineral and Waste Local Plan – consultation ends 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The clerk will convene meeting of small group of councillors to consider.
- Clerk received notice from resident about inadequate road drainage and this has been reported. The meeting was reminded that any highway issues such as drainage or potholes can be easily reported by anyone on the Suffolk CC website.

## **6. To consider Matters arising from the minutes.**

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The survey about the possible routes for the Ipswich Northern Bypass was completed by a small group of councillors and submitted.

## **7. Open Forum for members of the public.**

### **8.**

A member of the public asked if a hard copy of the Suffolk Mineral and Waste Local Plan was available for her to see. It was agreed the clerk would supply her with a hard copy of the amendments that referred to Tattingstone also these parts would be posted on our website.

Members of the public expressed their grave concerns about the withdrawal of all bus services through Tattingstone from 4<sup>th</sup> November.

These cuts affect the most vulnerable in our small society, the young and the elderly. Many young people will now be unable to travel to or from Suffolk One without relying on already hardworking parent's own transport. Elderly residents are having their independence threatened as they will no longer be able to go into Ipswich to shop, to bank or to socialise. This move is isolating them even more.

This move by Suffolk County Council will mean there will be many more car journeys. If Suffolk wishes to become carbon neutral by 2030 and have in March this year declared a climate emergency, these cuts are certainly counterproductive.

It was stressed by C Cllr Wood that it was the decision of Ipswich Buses to withdraw services as they were not economically viable without the subsidies. He had already expressed his concerns to Mary Evans, Portfolio holder, Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs at Suffolk County Council.

The clerk will write to Ms Evans, Suffolk County Council expressing the Council's strong objections to their decision to remove subsidies.

Cllr Gipps was researching using the Connecting Communities transport as a possible alternative for elderly residents.

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**9. To receive update about the telephone box by the the White Horse.**

Ms Rawlins from Suffolk Records Office presented her report and costings regarding converting the phone box into an Oral History and Heritage Telephone Box [Her full report is attached to these minutes]. This was an exciting project and is proving of interest to other villages.

The refurbishment and installation of a heritage telephone would be funded initially by themselves but then upkeep would become the responsibility of the Parish Council. The clerk queried if once converted we would need specialist insurance for the box. This was thought unnecessary.

The Parish Council agrees that the project should go ahead.

This was proposed and seconded and passed unanimously.

**10.To receive Reports from County and District Councillors**

Report from D. Cllr. Gould is attached to these minutes.

Report from C. Cllr. Wood is attached to these minutes.

**11.To discuss progress on village Speedwatch and to consider feedback from working group on possible traffic calming measures on A137.**

Ms Proctor addressed the meeting. A meeting had taken place and various options suggested. The police were thanked for visiting the village several times during the month to carry out speed checks.

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C Cllr Wood gave some rough estimates of different traffic calming options. Work has to be carried out by Suffolk Highways. The cost is much higher than was anticipated and in many cases ran into many thousand which the Parish Council could not afford. The working group will meet again to consider options.

Report attached to minutes.

**12.To discuss, recommend, not recommend or update on  
Planning Applications:**

**DC/19/02228**

**5 Fredericks Close, Tattingstone, IP9 2BF**

Change in cladding materials for dormers has been approved.

**13.Correspondence requiring immediate discussion at the  
discretion of the Chairman**

None

**13. Finance: to consider and approve.**

- **Bank Balances:** At 30th September

**Community Account:** £19,852.88 [second part of precept received]

**Savings Account:** £3179.16 [ interest £1,58

- **To approve payment :**

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- Clerk's wages and expenses: £262.81  
[incl. £11.25 expenses]
  
- HMRC: £193.60
  
- **CAS Ltd** [ insurance] CAS have now negotiated a new deal in their own name and are offering this new policy to us instead of continuing with Zurich , this is costing us at present £560.69 per annum on a 5 year option. With CAS the new plan on a 3 year option would be £456.19 per annum, a saving of £104.50 per year. Parish Council are able to change with no penalties or extra charges. The clerk has read through the new policy and it is the same cover as with Zurich. This was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously. A cheque for **£456.19 was signed dated 7th October 2019.**
  
- St Mary's Church PCC [maintenance of churchyard] £800 given for several years, it was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously to contribute. A cheque for **£800 was signed dated 7th October 2019.**
  
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Proposed: Cllr. Gipps  
Seconded: Cllr. Tweedy  
Carried unanimously

**Expenditure to date 2018/19 presented. Bank reconciliation agreed and signed.**

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**14.To receive Report from Playing Field Representative.**

There was no report because of illness

**15. To comment on the proposed renaming of Babergh District Council.**

The Parish Council felt this was unnecessary and a waste of money. The clerk would write.

**16. To Convene group to consider revised Boundary changes for Suffolk County Council [consultation ends 02,12,19]**

The clerk will arrange a meeting of several councillors and report back at the November meeting.

**17. To comment on progress towards co-option of Parish Councillor**

The clerk has advertised in the Tatt. News, the website, notice boards and FB for applications for Parish Councillor to be considered at the November meeting. So far 1 application received.

**18.To receive updates on recommendations in SALC audit.**

Carried forward to a future meeting.

**19. To discuss arrangements for VE day 2020 [75 years]**

Councillors are to come up with some suggestions for the next meeting

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## **20. to receive information regarding works at Holbrook by Anglian Water.**

During November there will be extensive works by Anglian Water to install a new water main in Holbrook. The diversion is through Tattingstone so there will be more traffic. Cllr. Wood will put more information regarding this on the website.

## **21. Any other urgent village matters**

- Cllr. Gipps reported back on a very successful Village Fete. Final accounts will be available shortly and posted on the website and in Tattingstone News.
- A letter will be sent to the Abbott family for their Farming Festival which raised money for both the local school and church.
- The fencing issue between a local farm and Anglian Water land is still continuing but hopefully will be concluded satisfactorily shortly.
- Congratulations were given to Cllr. Wood for his excellent charity walk in aid of Multiple System Atrophy.

## **22. Date of next meeting**

4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## **23. Items for next agenda.**

Up date on A137

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VE day

Budget requirements

Boundary changes

**The meeting ended at 21.20.**

**Signed minutes of previous Parish Council Meetings are available for inspection by contacting the clerk**

**01473 327865 or email: [tatt.pc@gmail.com](mailto:tatt.pc@gmail.com)**

### **Tattingstone oral history and Heritage Telephone Box**

Land and Shore is heritage and arts project established by the Suffolk Record Office, to support groups of people discover and explore the history of lost communities.

Following on from my discussion with the Tattingstone Parish Council in June, I am updating you with the feasibility of this project:

I have obtained costings from John Royle from Chronicle Storytelling to obtain the relevant telephone apparatus, adapt the technology to apply the voice recordings, install the telephone with appropriate solar batteries. This is subject to Suffolk Archives providing the voice recordings.

I have contacted numerous painters about the feasibility of volunteers stripping the phone box, especially in light that there has been a suggestion the phone box is covered with lead-based paint. I have been advised that this is not a dangerous operation, but after consulting H&S Lead paint removal guidelines, I thought it would be prudent to obtain quotes from professional painters who

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are experienced in this type of work and carry their own risk. As a result, I only managed to find two builders who would be available to view the box and provide an estimation of the work.

Griff Rhys Jones have given verbal confirmation that he would like to include his voice in some of the recordings.

Suffolk County Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund will pay for the refurbishment and installation of an oral history telephone in the Tattingstone Telephone Box.

The quotations obtained are as follows:

Telephone box refurbishment hardware: glazing and replacement fixtures	Chronicle Digital Storytelling sourced from <a href="http://www.x2connect.com/Home">http://www.x2connect.com/Home</a>	£360
Donor phone	Chronicle Digital Storytelling sourced from eBay	£40
Refit story technology	Chronicle Digital Storytelling	£80
Solar power	Chronicle Digital Storytelling	£80
Mounting backboard and shelving (wood)	Chronicle Digital Storytelling	£80
Interpretation signage	Vertas Design & Print	£300
Set up, config of oral history telephone and installation	Chronicle Digital Storytelling	£500

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Removal of existing paint and repainting with appropriate paint. All preparation work, internal and external painting and supply of materials  £360 Labour £140 materials	John McLeod, Painter & Decorator Ipswich. Paint sourced from <a href="http://www.x2connect.com/Home">http://www.x2connect.com/Home</a>	£500
Contingencies and Miscellaneous		£100
Total	Inclusive of VAT	£2040

This quotation is subject to the following:

- Approval of Suffolk County Council procurement procedures
- 12 month pilot period following installation to monitor the oral history telephone, with the objective of passing maintenance to the parish council afterwards if they so wished. If the telephone is damaged, Suffolk County Council will fund the replacement of one further telephone.
- If the phone box is damaged in anyway, this will be the responsibility of Tattingstone Parish Council as owners.
- Additional specialist support may be required with the re-glazing if any difficulties arise.
- We will also be looking for other funders to support this project.

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If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me at [mandy.rawlins@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.rawlins@suffolk.gov.uk) or Tel: 07547 981177

Mandy Rawlins

Community & Learning Officer (East Suffolk)

Suffolk Archives

07/10/19

### Tattingstone Speed Reduction working Group and Speed Watch update.

Attendees: Sue Clarke, Sue Gipps, Alan Gipps, Peta, Mandy and Kirsty.

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

As a result of the last Parish Council meeting, it was decided that a working group be put together to discuss possible ideas to reduce speeding in the village.

It was important to both Parish Councillors and residents that all possibilities were explored and costings sort. Everyone was aware that there would be factors restricting what options were available, but it was important to be positive and open minded. Once we had costings, advice would be sort from Highways as the qualified body regarding what would be feasible. Sources of funds would also be explored once we knew what costs were involved. A few cost ideas were discussed at the meeting.

It was agreed that as a working party, there should be a similar amount of Parish Councillors and residents at any meeting. Initially we are concerning ourselves with the problems of speeding on the A137, although it was noted that other areas of the village also have issues.

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With this in mind, the following suggestions were made:

Physical changes (red indicates our priorities)

Full roundabout at the Wheatsheaf crossroads

Pedestrian crossing, having halfway point on the A137 if a roundabout was in place

*Repainted road markings at the crossroads – confirmation by Highways that this is being actioned within 14 weeks*

*Double white lines throughout village*

*Angled picket gates towards the road giving the impression of road narrowing plus planters*

*30mph signs to be put back towards Ipswich*

*S.I.D. – Mandy getting quotes*

*Rumble strips at village boundaries*

*Speed cushions*

*Speed tables*

*Coloured tarmac with 30 mph*

Signage:

Other than the standard 30mph sign, we don't have any signage about speed in the village. Suggestions for signs were:

Residential area

Happy faces

Kill Your Speed

Villagers with High Viz carrying 30 mph placards

Sponsorship / funding possibilities:

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Nelson Potter - Picket gates

TGC - planters

Collins - already assisting with Speed watch

Other actions taken:

Peta explored signage, rough costings were around £200 each sign.

Numbers of drivers caught speeding by the Speed camera –

2017-2018 - they visited The Heath 5 times (catching 74) and Lemons Hill twice (catching 2).

2018-2019 they visited The Heath 24 times (catching 243) and Lemons Hill twice (catching 2).

Mandy contacted Community Action Suffolk to discuss funding options and will explore what is involved in possibly setting up a more formal structure.

Contacted Suffolk Police re FOI request into serious accidents on The Heath in the last 5 years.

We are recording all near misses on The Heath and Lemons Hill to collect data of our own as near.

SID and other updates:

Another letter gone out to residents along A137 re SID

To date £1,205.25 raised towards the SID. Funding still to come from Cllr Wood and the Fete.

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Have spoken to Stutton and Brantham PC re costs of their SID's. One was £3,500, the other £3,000. Still waiting to hear back from the companies they brought theirs from for direct quotes.

#### Speed Watch update since last PC meeting:

65 cars recorded with speeds over 35mph in the last month (there were more, but these stats were the ones that the gun recorded)

The Heath – the highest volume of cars we had was a weekday morning 6.30am-7.30am 1151, 27 recorded doing over 35mp 27, with the highest speed 48

Lemons Hill – frustratingly only done twice due to weather cancelling sessions – volume of cars 66 cars half an hour (school run), 8 recorded over 35mph, highest speed 40

Harwich CSW are participating in a trial of having the powers to prosecute drivers. I have contacted Suffolk Police to see if this is something they are considering. They are monitoring the outcomes of this trial and then will discuss.

I chased the Speed camera team regarding the loan of a Speed Detection Radar for The Heath. I had a reply from the chap who does this. He is one person doing the job and is currently reviewing all of the 400 enforcement sites they have. He has said The Heath is on his list as the last time this was done was 3 years ago. He has said it will hopefully be done in the next month.

#### Actions:

Get quotes / costings for speed reduction suggestions from the Working group

Any near misses to be reported to Mandy

[Type here]

See if any other residents want to be involved in the working group so we can take turns / get a wider representative of residents.

Arrange a date for next working group meeting

Mandy Proctor

Tattingstone Speedwatch

Police speeding records 2018-2019

<b>A137</b>	<b>243</b>
01/04/2019	2
04/03/2019	4
05/08/2018	27
05/09/2018	8
07/01/2019	3
07/06/2018	5
07/09/2018	1
08/08/2018	7
09/12/2018	16
11/01/2019	4
11/04/2019	7
12/02/2019	5
12/07/2018	24
13/05/2019	15
14/01/2019	2
14/04/2019	3
15/10/2018	8
19/03/2019	1
21/07/2018	36

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24/09/2018	15
26/10/2018	15
27/01/2019	1
27/08/2018	15
28/06/2018	19
<b>C418</b>	<b>8</b>
<hr/>	
21/07/2018	2
27/02/2019	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>25</b>

## Parish Report - October 2019

**Councillor**

*David Wood*



### **Review of Suffolk County Council Boundaries – public consultation**

The Boundary Commission have now announced that they will be looking to reduce the number of councillors at Suffolk County Council from 75 to 70.

The next stage of the process is to determine where the division boundaries should be. There is a public consultation which will run until 2 December 2019, available here: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/18495>

### **New process for requesting speed limit changes**

There is now a new process in place for requesting speed limit changes. The local county councillor must act as a “filter”: all requests for changes need to come through them, and any individual or parish council who requests a change will be referred to the local councillor. The local councillor will need to persuade the officer group to support a request for a speed limit change. The group will then produce a report on the pros and cons, which the local councillor can comment on before the report goes to Cllr Mary Evans (Cabinet Member for Highways) for a final decision.

### **Sizewell C – response to Stage 4 Consultation**

On 24 September, the Cabinet agreed a response to EDF’s Stage 4 consultation for Sizewell C. The Cabinet maintains that they support the principle of nuclear technology, but do not currently have sufficient information to support the proposals for Sizewell C.

My group (made up of Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent councillors) at the county council has called on the Cabinet to reject EDF’s proposals for Sizewell C. Our concerns include:

- EDF will be overcharging UK consumers for electricity from Sizewell for the next 35 years. Latest prices of offshore wind generated power, per KWhr, without any subsidy, are less than half what EDF is being guaranteed;
- Impact on the surrounding natural environment, including the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB;
- Impact on the tourism industry;
- Additional carbon emissions and congestion from a road-led strategy;
- Lack of planning for nuclear waste disposal;
- Unsympathetic design to the surrounding natural area;

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- Additional pylons in an already crowded landscape;
- Not convinced by EDF's economic development argument.

### **Budget monitoring – quarter 1**

At the end of Q1, the council is forecasting a net overspend by the end of the year of £1.2m on the Base Budget and £6.7m on the Dedicated Schools Grant Budget.

The base budget overspend is largely due to rising costs for adult care, an overspend on the Home-to-School transport budget, and an increase in the number of children in care with complex needs who require specialist placements. Most other departments at the council are forecasting to spend on budget.

The £6.7m overspend on the schools budget is largely due to an increase in children with complex Special Educational Needs, and the increased costs for support and transport to schools outside of Suffolk that go alongside this. Although the council has agreed to spend on building new special education placements within Suffolk, which ought to address some of this expenditure in the future, it is too late for this financial year.

### **Local Industrial Strategy for Suffolk**

The New Anglia LEP, with input from local councils, are in the process of drafting a Local Industrial Strategy for Suffolk. It is expected that this Strategy will be presented to central government for approval in October.

In September, the Cabinet gave its approval for a draft version of the Strategy. However, my group were concerned that the strategy failed to acknowledge both the current climate emergency that we are facing and the potential impacts of Brexit on Suffolk. We have written to the LEP with our feedback, which will hopefully be reflected in the final Strategy.

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### **Delay to children's centre consultation**

Suffolk County Council has confirmed that there is "no firm start date" for the consultation regarding potential closures of children's centres. Originally, the Council had stated that this consultation would start in September and run for 6 weeks.

The Council is proposing to close 2 children's centres completely, convert a further 11 to SEND facilities or nurseries, reduce 9 to part-time hours and convert the remaining 16 into family hubs providing services for families with children aged 0-19.

### **Report for Tattingstone Parish Council from Jane Gould, Babergh District Councillor**

Meeting date: 7 October 2019

From now on my reports will be in Ariel and font size 14 to meet the criteria for the forthcoming Accessibility code.

The consultation period has just closed for the Joint Local Plan. I hope those of you who managed to get to the information sessions found them helpful.

Two Conservative District Councillors, Cllr Ayres and Cllr Maybury, have left the Conservative group and are now Independent Councillors. The East Anglian Daily times reported –

*Mrs Ayres, a party member for 55 years and former mayor of Sudbury, said she felt members were too often kept in the dark. Half of the time you don't know what is going on," she said. "I found out about the Babergh name change proposal from a post on Facebook. It's a very sad day for me as I have been a member of the party since I was 18 but I want to do what is best for the town and I now feel it must be as an Independent. Mrs Ayres said the way the on-going controversy over proposals to build a hotel on part of Belle Vue Park in Sudbury had been handled had also influenced her decision*

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*“Mrs Maybury, who despite being dropped from the cabinet retained her seat at this year's May elections, said she did not approve of the way the group conducted itself. “It's been very dictatorial and very concerned about its own image rather than what's good for the people, in my opinion,” she said.*

Babergh is a Conservative-run coalition. Following these resignations the balance of power is now 13 Conservatives, 10 Independents, 4 Green, 3 Liberal Democrats and 2 Labour. I am pleased to be able to report that the council unanimously voted for an amendment put forward by the Green group to a Climate Change Motion; I am hopeful that as the balance of power has shifted a little further away from the Conservatives we may be able to get more Green motions through Council.

### **Citizens Advice**

The Joint Overview and Scrutiny committee have looked at Suffolk County Council's funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau and will be recommending that the funding stream is reviewed to support the organisation.

### **CIL**

The next bidding round for CIL 123 funding opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. The last round ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> May and there were only four bids submitted. Application forms and details of how and what to apply for are available on the Council website. The process involves a bit of work, but successful bids have been made. It may be worth considering any infrastructure projects that could be undertaken in the village sooner rather than later so that the appropriate evidence can be obtained. Training and information sessions on CIL are being offered to District Councillors and I am attending one next week.

### **Name change**

From BBC News:

*Suffolk's Babergh District Council - pronounced "Bay-ber", takes its name from the Anglo-Saxon place name Barberga and has existed since 1974. The district was first listed in the Domesday Book in 1086. The authority plans to change its name to South Suffolk Council to make its location more obvious. It is also hoped the change, which the council has said will cost less than £10,000, will help bring investment to the region. Leader of the authority John Ward said: "Babergh has a proud history but we know that people from further afield are often unaware of exactly where Babergh is and even struggle over its pronunciation. By renaming to South Suffolk we can be clear about who we are, where we are and what we represent as well as clearly identifying the council, it*

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*will also align with the name of our parliamentary constituency, cutting down on any confusion."*

Councillors are due to make a decision on the proposed name change at an extraordinary meeting to be held after the full council meeting on 22 October so if anyone has any comments they would like me to pass on please email me with them.

## **Planning**

This is the only entry on the Babergh planning page for Tattingstone since the last Parish Council meeting.

[Application for Non Material Amendment relating to approved application DC/19/02228 - Amendment to materials to be used for Installation of Dormer Windows.](#) 

5 Fredericks Close Tattingstone Ipswich Suffolk IP9 2BF

**Application. No:** DC/19/04281 | Received: Wed 11 Sep 2019 | Validated: Wed 25 Sep 2019 | Status: Awaiting decision

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## **Report for Tattingstone Parish Council from Jane Gould, Babergh District Councillor**

Meeting date: 2 September 2019

The consultation period is still open for the Joint Local Plan and the proposed Ipswich Northern bypass so there is still time to comment on both or to add to comments already made.

Villages to the north of Ipswich have formed a group called “Stop”, their objective is to stop the northern bypass. I went to a meeting on 29 August to offer support and to show solidarity. The Green Party are the only party who consistently speak out against road building and improvement projects. Much research has provided solid evidence over the last twenty years to show that road schemes actually increase traffic levels, cause permanent and significant environmental and landscape damage and show little economic benefit to local communities. There is a demonstration to express this concern on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, the day the consultation ends. Anyone who would like to join the gathering outside Endeavour House at around 11.30am would be very welcome, you can see the website at <https://stopipswichnorthernbypass.co.uk/>

Chelmondiston Parish Council is in the process of arranging meetings to discuss actions they would like to suggest before declaring a climate and ecological emergency. This is something other Parish Councils may like to consider as a positive move against climate change.

The Joint Overview and Scrutiny committee have looked at Suffolk County Council's funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau and will be recommending that the funding stream is reviewed to support the organisation.

### **Planning**

Outline Planning Application (some matters reserved) - Erection of up to 4no dwellings and vehicular access. Land South Of The Rose House The Heath Tattingstone Ipswich Suffolk IP9 2LX **Application. No:** DC/19/02617 | Received: Fri 31 May 2019 | Validated: Sat 01 Jun 2019 | Status: Granted

I asked for this application to be dealt with by the planning committee but the delegation panel could find no reason for this to happen. For future applications I thought it might be useful for parishes to know what is needed for an application to be dealt with by the planning committee. At least one of the factors below need to be present -

- significant policy, consistency or material considerations which make a decision on the application of more than local significance
- the clear and substantial planning reasons for requesting a referral
- wider District and public interest in the application

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<p><b>Parish Report - September 2019</b></p> <p><b>Councillor</b> David Wood</p> <p>Triangle Ipswich Road Tattingstone, Ipswich IP9 2NN</p> <p>Telephone: 07545423831 or 07889389443 Email: <a href="mailto:david.wood@suffolk.gov.uk">david.wood@suffolk.gov.uk</a></p>	
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### **Hundreds of children still unsure about school transport arrangements**

In September 2019, Suffolk County Council's new Home to School transport policy will be implemented. Children moving to a new school will only receive free transport from the council if it is their nearest school and more than 2 miles from their homes. All eligible parents were asked to opt-in and apply for transport, and those who were not eligible for free transport were offered the opportunity to buy a spare seta on SCC school buses.

However, 472 applications for home-to-school transport remained outstanding at the end of August, with families unsure of whether they would be allocated a seat on an SCC school bus in time for the start of the new school year.

### **First stage of Boundary Commission review**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is currently undertaking a review of Suffolk County Council, to determine both the number of councillors and the boundaries between divisions.

For the first stage of the review, the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group submitted a proposal to keep councillor numbers in Suffolk at a minimum of 75, with the potential for an increase to 80. This was based on the need to ensure proper local representation and encourage diversity amongst councillors, which consequently requires a more manageable workload. Furthermore, given the predicted population growth in Suffolk and the reduced funding that local government is receiving, it is likely that councillor workloads will only continue to increase in the future.

The Conservative and Labour Groups submitted a joint proposal asking for a reduction to 70 councillors.

The next stage of the review will determine the new division boundaries and will include two public consultations. The review is expected to be completed by July 2020.

### **My sponsored walk**

I'll be completing my sponsored 60-mile walk along the Suffolk coast on 13-16<sup>th</sup> September, to raise money for Multiple System Atrophy Trust in memory of my wife. If you would like to sponsor me, my Just Giving page is: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/david-wood143>

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