

INGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 23rd MAY 2017

The meeting was held in St Bartholomew's Church with 7 members of the public in attendance together with representatives from St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Suffolk County Council and the Police.

The question was raised as to what could be done with regard to speeding and volume of traffic through the village which was becoming an ever increasing problem. The subject was discussed at great length outlining possible action that could be taken and also covering the possible effect that a proposed Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) could have. Data recorded on the VAS could also be used to help speed enforcement. This item was also on the agenda for the Parish Council AGM and would be discussed by the council after the parish meeting was ended.

Police Report

PC Fox outlined how the new Police organisation in Bury St Edmunds now operated, with different aspects of police work being delegated to different individuals. In the past 12 months there had been 4 reported crimes in Ingham. They were:

- a. A case of blackmail
- b. One case of theft
- c. One case of theft from a motor vehicle
- d. One case of vehicle taken without consent

There had been several cases of burglary in neighbouring areas but none actually within the village.

Suffolk County Council Representative – Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger

In her written report (copy attached at Annex A) Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger covered points relating to Council Budget, her Locality Budget, Highways Matters, Broadband, Education, Ofsted and Early Years. She stressed that now that local elections were over it was necessary to move on with regard to funding for the pedestrian crossing, issues relating to speeding and also flooding at various points in the village.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council Representative – Cllr Susan Glossop

Cllr Glossop's written annual report (attached at Annex B) covered the following aspects of Borough Council's priorities and plans over the last year:

Council Tax and Budget, her Locality Budget, Economic Development, Planning, West Suffolk Operational Hub, Housing, Farmer's Market, Garden Waste Collection Service, Parking Enforcement and Town Centre Master Plan.

Discussion centred on possible progress on the Playmeadow, on the Solar Farm where commencement on the project may not start until next year.

The Chairman then outlined the council's thoughts with regard to the purchase of a VAS and the manner and possible locations for the use of such. The subject was discussed at length prior to being brought for final decision at the Council AGM.

A discussion was also held with regard to the village neighbour help scheme which was proving very useful.

The Parish Meeting then closed at 8.07pm and was followed by the Parish Council AGM

Ingham Parish AGM

Budget – Suffolk County Council have frozen general council tax for the seventh year in a row, this budget savings were made of £31.5m with £4.5m being taken from reserves to cover the budget gap. SCC continued with the adult social care precept of 3% which is ring-fenced money for adult social care raising £8.5m which is invested in full to front line services in addition the government awarded us an adult care grant of £3.3m resulting in £12m investment in adult social care.

Locality Budget – Through my locality budget I was pleased to be able to support the church in installing a new kitchen/boiler.

Highway Matters – Suffice to say that highway issues take up a lot of my time ranging from pothole repairs to flooding/drainage issue, resurfacing, and trimming of the verges and trees around the village to name but a few. The main issue is to get a pedestrian crossing installed in the street and we will continue to investigate funding option for this. Speeding issues also remain a concern again I will continue to work with the parish on resolving this matter. I will continue to chase and ensure that highway issues are resolved quickly and right first time.

Broadband - Currently, we are at around 90% fibre coverage in Suffolk. BT are currently re-modelling the rollout plan for the second contract, which will run to 2019. This is a result of a Suffolk County Council move to introduce the “clawed back” funding into the contract, pushing coverage higher, beyond the 97% by 2019 target.

Education - GCSE's- Suffolk's GCSE has risen above the national average. Suffolk is now ranked in the top half of all authorities for progress at GCSE level, at **55th out of 151**. It is important to recognise that the way a school's progress is measured has changed this year nationally. Progress 8 is the Government's new way of measuring GCSE results. It measures how well pupils of all abilities have progressed by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country. Across Suffolk, 60.1% of students achieved the national measure of attaining a grade C or above in English and maths. This is **3% higher than last year** and marks a **6% increase since 2014**. Suffolk students have also closed the gap to the national average state funded schools from 6% in 2014 to just 3% this year. Suffolk continues to be above the national figure of 59.3% for all schools. This is a real sign that Suffolk is making good progress.

Ofsted - There has been a more than 20% rise in Suffolk Schools being judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. This rate is currently improving more than twice as fast as those across the country, 90% of Suffolk schools are now rated 'good' or 'outstanding', this means that 9/10 children in Suffolk now have access to the highest standards of education.

Early Years - In Suffolk 70.2% of children achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) this year. This is slightly above the rest of England.

Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger
Suffolk County Council

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR SUSAN GLOSSOP**Report for the Annual Parish Meeting of Ingham Parish Council on the 23rd May 2017**

Budget. (Medium term Financial Strategy.) As grants from Government continue to fall, SEBC has adopted the strategy of becoming more commercial and investing to secure extra funding. If we didn't do this, there would be a budget shortfall of over £3.3million which could only be met by cutting funding for services by that amount.

Capital investment plans 2017-2021 currently stand at £64 million. This includes £3 million in Barley Homes, our housing company, and £20 million in our growth agenda plus potential future investment opportunities in Suffolk Business Park, Haverhill Research Park and the delivery of Bury St Edmunds town centre masterplan actions. Investment in our communities is reflected in our Community Chest grants and through the locality money awarded by ward members.

Council Tax makes up around a fifth of our total income. The Government has removed its Council Tax freeze grant and its funding decisions assume local authorities will increase Council Tax by the maximum level each year, which equates to an extra £3.51 a year (under 30p a month, or 1.96%), taking SEBC's share of the total Council Tax bill to £182.16 for an average Band D home. Bearing in mind that there will also be an increase of 3% for SCC and 1.97% for the police and the parishes on average 3.50%

Locality budget I have a budget of £2,500 each financial year Please contact me if you have a scheme that requires funding. This year funding has been awarded to:

Risby	£200	Defibrillator
Lackford	£500	Vehicle activation sign
Flempton cum Hengrave	£500	Vehicle activation sign
Lackford church	£1,000	Conversion for public community meeting room

Economic Development There are a number areas scheduled for development around Bury which are coming forward at the moment to be developed in phases over the next few years. In the north there are 2 such areas. To the north-west the area will stretch from the current edge of the built up area towards the Tut Hill road in Fornham All Saints. This is named Marham Park and on the 3rd May, Development Control will be asked to consider the first application for the first phase of 151 homes with 36 one and two bedroom affordable homes within this development To the north east Moreton hall will be extended eastwards and will link up with the projected Suffolk Business Park which has recently been given outline planning permission which includes the Enterprise zone for Bury St Edmund which is connected to the Eastern Relief Road and the now opened Sybil Andrews Academy. The 56 acres of strategic employment land will provide high quality buildings to meet the demand of modern business and will see the creation of approximately 9,000 jobs however the project to complete the whole park is a 25 year plan. To the south, the south east development in Rushbrooke and the Nowton area has now been adopted, outline planning permission has been granted for 1,250 dwellings, community hall, playing fields and primary school, on land south of Rougham Hill. These areas are scheduled for development within the next 15-20 years.

Work has started on the redevelopment of two major areas within Bury. Station Hill and the Tayfen Road area are part of a large brownfield area, which will lead to 200 more houses and jobs: a care home, a family pub, new retail and commercial areas.

The development work continues on the brownfield site on Western Way, which borders the already developed ASDA and West Suffolk House, but will extend to include amongst others the current Borough refuse depot, the NHS building and the Olding Road car park.

The area is intended to become a service village for the Borough and the wider area. A multi storey car park and student accommodation is also part of the plan.

Planning Applications

On a much smaller scale, but possibly of more importance to residents of Ingham several individual planning applications have been made. The majority of the applications have been approved enabling people to build extensions or make alterations to their property. Not all applications go smoothly however, and I would strongly advise people wanting to put in an application to talk to the Parish Council who make comments pertinent to each application. In addition it is worth having some pre-application advice from Planning Officers. I am also readily available to discuss any individual plans with anyone in the village and I frequently act as a go-between between resident and Planning Officer to try to resolve any problems on an informal basis.

Bury Household Waste Recycling Centre .The opening hours have been extended on Sundays, Bank Holidays, and on a Thursday evening during the summer months, reflecting the times when the sites are most used and needed by residents. Weekends and bank holidays are busiest. The quietest day of the week is consistently a Wednesday. As a result of this, the site will be closed on a Wednesday. However the site will be open from 9am- 5pm on other days and during May to August the centre will be open until 7pm on a Thursday.

Housing Company. A Housing Company, called Barley Homes, has been set up which is jointly owned by St Edmundsbury Borough Council (25% share), Forest Heath District Council (25% share) and Suffolk County Council (50% share). The purpose of the company is to act commercially, to build homes for sale and private rent, and provide up to 30 per cent of the homes as affordable housing (rented, shared ownership and/or low cost starter homes) in line with planning policy. The first applications are expected to be submitted to the local planning authority later this year.

Farmers market. A regular Sunday market will now take place on the second Sunday of the month, beginning in March in the Traverse, with the regular market traders offered the chance to trade as an additional market in the Cornhill.

West Suffolk Operational Hub.

Following the public consultation on a site for the operational hub the preferred site is to be Hollow Road where the proposal is to have a waste transfer station, where West Suffolk waste will be transferred to larger vehicles and taken to Great Blakenham for disposal/recycling, a vehicle depot and associated offices and staff and a household Waste recycling centre for Bury St Edmunds. The planning application for this is expected to be heard by the Development Control committee in July. Comments or representations you wish to be considered by the local planning authority as part of the planning application consultation and decision process should be submitted through the online planning portal: <https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-application>. Following the decision made by the Development Control committee hearing the application will have to go to the Planning Inspector for approval as the scheme was not part of the 2031 vision masterplan.

Garden Waste Collection Service Take up of the subscription service in year one was successful with 39% of all West Suffolk households signing up (41% SEBC & 35% FHDC). 65% of subscribers applied and paid online. Current customers will be contacted in Mid-February/beginning of March with regard to the new subscription year which started in April. Unsubscribed bins will not be emptied from May onwards.

Community safety – Public Space Protection Orders. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recently discussed Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) specifically to include the proposal to include begging in the Order for Bury St Edmunds.

There was a lively discussion in order to ensure that people who find themselves on the street are given the right support, advice and help. Prevention and support remains our primary aim at all times. Unfortunately there are a small number of individuals who cause problems for people working, living and shopping in the town and this PSPO provides the Police with a way to address severe anti-social behaviour incidences. This will now go forward for wider consideration in the Council and for public consultation.

Rough Sleepers

There have been increased pressures on the limited accommodation for homeless people. Following a successful bid to the DCLG for a rough sleeper outreach worker. We have employed an outreach worker for two years, this should help reduce homelessness by providing a point of contact for individuals at risk of becoming homeless or who are homeless. This worker will have links with agencies and partners to provide accommodation.

Civil Parking Enforcement

Agreement has been reached between the Police, SCC, St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath that St Eds and Forest Heath will take on the role of control of street parking as will Mid Suffolk District Council. It should run at a surplus but more importantly enable control of parking issues in conjunction with our off street parking operations. This will enable St Eds to keep all on street income. The period will be from 2019 -2029 and the proposal has to go to the Secretary of State for approval.

Town Centre Master plan

The eight week consultation on the town centre master plan has been completed and the consultants will now produce a draft plan for the steering group to review.

I have enjoyed working with the parish council and the residents of Ingham over the past year. On the whole many of the local issues are to do with.

Pot holes

Fly tipping

Speeding traffic through the villages

Rural bus service

Maintenance of public rights of way

Dog fouling

Reinstating the play area

Cllr Susan Glossop

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