

Report for the end of November for the Bungay and Wainfod villages Division from County Councillor Judy Cloke

Bungay :

I was proud to represent SCC on Remembrance Sunday in participating in the procession and service as well as laying the wreath at the War memorial ; I also thanked the Highways team for organising an efficient road closure.

I am pleased to again chair the Lucy Robertson Walker 'Make a Difference' award which will be presented in February at the Bungay Enterprise and Business Association (BEBA) awards in February – application forms can be obtained from and returned to Interiors @no11.

On 14 November SCC staged the annual 'Local Matters' event at the Butter Cross. A number of officers were present, including the Chief Executive Nicola Beach. Cllr Matthew Hicks, Leader was also there and I introduced both to many passing Bungay residents. I am pleased to see new market stalls though I know the departure of CC Wells will leave a huge gap which Emma is trying to fill. I have asked the Highways team to look at the potential to close Cross Street on Market days and will continue to push for this.

During Local Government Week , I was delighted to be asked along to the Bungay Guide & Rangers meeting with Adrian Ramsay MP and Cllr Speca – I found myself deep in conversation with one young lady about potholes and the Highways reporting tool.

Disappointingly because of the weather the Grand Lights' Switch On was relocated to St Mary's , which meant footfall was less but with the aid of our Assistant Clerk, I was able to donate £130 to the Christmas Lights appeal from my chocolate tombola.

Flixton :

The traffic monitoring 'tubes' will be laid in early January to the west of Oaklands swimming pool – this is to monitor the traffic before the signage along the B1062 is changed.

Ilketshall St Andrew:

Following on from the Parish Council meeting on 4 November, I met with a resident for a visit at where there is some concern about inappropriate development and encroachment and I have referred both issues to the appropriate authority.

St James:

I am still trying to get the issue of the layby sorted out and feel as if I am going round in circles.

Ringsfield and Weston : I attended a Saturday event at Ringsfield Village Hall and took away some Highways issues which I have passed on

Generally:

I have attended Parish Council meetings in St Andrew, Three Saints, Homersfield & Rumburgh and during the month I have supported the Bungay Folk Festival , Bungay Folk Orchestra and Bungay Community Library with Locality funding.

I am also extremely proud of a leaflet which the Floods Team has produced -which is attached 'hot off the press'

Suffolk wide news

Budget Consultation:

The council has launched an online consultation to explain its current financial position and give Suffolk residents an opportunity to share their views on proposed Council Tax changes and spending priorities.

The consultation offers an opportunity to understand how the council manages its finances, the cost-saving measures already in place, and how the council might generate more money to support essential services.

The council can increase its budget in two main ways: by receiving more funding from the government or by increasing Council Tax.

The consultation asks residents for feedback on which council services they have used recently, whether they support increasing Council Tax contributions, and which areas they would like to see prioritised in the council's budget-setting process.

Responses to the consultation will be considered alongside feedback from businesses, public sector partners and elected members, as well as advice from council officers, as it prepares next year's budget.

Warm Homes :

Suffolk County Council is offering interest-free loans to help make residents' homes warmer, safer and cheaper to run.

Energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps are possible with loans from £2,000 to £15,000 to be repaid over a maximum of seven years – at 0% interest.

The £3 million project fully opened to homeowners across Suffolk on **1 November 2024**, and applications can now be made at <https://www.lendology.org.uk/warm-homes-suffolk-loan/>

Good Health at Work :

Suffolk County Council has officially launched the Good Health at Work Programme, a new initiative aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of the working-age population across Suffolk.

Running initially for 18 months, the programme will provide essential support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), focusing on businesses whose employees are at the highest risk of health inequalities, such as those on low incomes or with long-term health conditions. The programme will be delivered by Get Set UK, a leading people services provider.

SMEs in Suffolk are encouraged to get involved and take advantage of the range of resources now available. Key elements of the programme include:

An Online Resource Hub – This hub offers employers access to practical tools, advice, and evidence-based strategies to create healthier workplaces based on good work principles like fair pay, job security, and opportunities for growth.

An Ambassador Network – Businesses can join a community of employers committed to promoting good work practices, with opportunities to collaborate and improve their workplace using a self-assessment framework to review their workforce wellbeing practices against a set of six standards. Participants can achieve tiered recognition, starting with a bronze award upon completing the first standard and progressing to silver and gold as they advance.

A Navigator Service – Providing one-on-one support, the Navigator Service helps SMEs assess their challenges and strengths, offering tailored advice and guidance to enhance their workplace and improve employee well-being.

Nautilus Connector:

Suffolk County Council has welcomed the news that a major energy infrastructure project will no longer impact the Suffolk coast but has asked for urgent clarity on whether another project will simply take its place.

SCC is making net zero gains

Since 2019, when it declared a climate emergency, the council's carbon reduction successes include:

- Street and traffic lights down by 57%
- Diesel and petrol vehicles down by 50%
- Gas and oil use in buildings down by 37%
- Staff commuting down by 30%
- Electricity use in buildings down by 25%

There is still work to do.

SEND services in Suffolk :

The Department for Education (DfE) met with senior leaders from Suffolk County Council and the NHS to review the impact of wide-ranging improvement plans for special educational needs and disabilities services (SEND).

Following the meeting, a letter was sent from the DfE outlining the extent of progress made within SEND services across Suffolk over the past six months.

In summary, it 'welcomes the improvements and the evidence of impact' and recognises 'the considerable challenges that remain to reach the required targets'.

Judy Cloke

11 December 2024