

# Parish Report December 2017

## Councillor

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## Compliments of the Season

Here we are again in the festive season, the lighting up of Christmas trees, the smell of mulled wine and mince pies, Christmas Fayres and seasonal carols, and of course this also means Winter is coming as we reach the coldest time of year. Whilst people struggle with continued budget cuts and hardships, greater demand than ever is being put on the charities that support those in need, food banks, homeless centres, family centres and many more and whilst urging anyone who can help to support where they can, I would also like to extend a vote of thanks to all those who have done so much, not just now in the winter months, but throughout the year to help those in need.

As in previous years I would remind you of the hazards that winter conditions bring for motorists and pedestrians and again I would urge you all to take care when out and about. Suffolk County Council will be doing all they can to keep roads safe during icy weather, and there are some basic precautions you can follow when travelling.

### When driving:

Allow extra time for your journey  
Keep a blanket or extra coats/clothing in your car  
Take a warm drink and snack with you for longer journeys  
Watch your speed  
Don't drink and drive, think and plan how you will travel home after any festivities

### When walking:

Wear sturdy, sensible shoes or boots  
Use a walking stick for extra balance or stability if it is icy  
Wear reflective or light coloured clothing  
Carry a torch for extra visibility

Remember - **'Be seen, Be safe!'**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me during the year as I strive to support you, the people of the Community and the people I serve.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas & A Happy and safe New Year.

## Suffolk's Young People Encouraged to get involved in politics as nominations open for Suffolk's Youth Parliament

Nominations are now open for Suffolk's Youth Parliament and young people in Suffolk have until 7 January 2018 to submit their nominations.

The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) is the largest elected body of young people in the UK who influence policy. Made up of elected Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) and Deputies, they meet locally and nationally to give young people a voice. There are currently 2 MYPs in Suffolk and up to 15 MYPs and Deputies will be appointed when elections are held in February.

MYPs assist in running **Make Your Mark**, the UK's largest youth consultation. The results of the consultation are used to develop services locally and nationally. There are also opportunities to attend British Youth Council conventions and attend the Make Your Mark debate in the House of Commons. Above all, young people are given the opportunity to meet new people, make lasting friends and make a difference.

The UK Youth Parliament holds elections for UKYP members to be elected in Suffolk in February to start their term in March.

To apply, you must:

- Be aged 11-18
- Live, work or study in the area you are standing for
- Be able to commit 7 hours a month (or 1-2 hours a week) to Suffolk UKYP

To run for election, young people will need produce a short video or a written manifesto, addressing three areas they are passionate about and would like to change in their local area – one of these must be taken from the top 5 a Make Your Mark results.

Manifestos must be submitted by 7 January 2018.

## **Suffolk home to School Transport Consultation to be Reviewed**

Proposals to consult Suffolk residents on changing the way home to school and post-16 travel is provided will be reconsidered on Tuesday 5 December.

Over the last two years, Suffolk County Council has managed to save £2.6 million from its school and post-16 travel service budget, making it more efficient. Despite this, the budget is still £3 million overspent. Changes to the school and post-16 travel policies now need to be considered so the service is affordable and capable of meeting growing demand in the future.

Suffolk County Council's current school and post-16 travel policies go above legal requirements, with around 2400 children and young people receiving free/subsidised school or post-16 travel that we are not legally required to provide, and around 2400 children receiving free travel to schools further away than legally required. The proposed consultation seeks views on options to change these policies.

On 12 September 2017, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet approved a public consultation on school and post-16 travel. This was subsequently reviewed by the council's Scrutiny Committee and referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

Suffolk County Council has now carried out additional pre-consultation work with schools, parents, parish councils, bus/coach operators, councillors and young people to look at the challenges in further detail. As part of this, a range of local solutions have been developed that in addition to changing the school and post-16 travel policies, could help reduce the cost of transport and some of the impact of any policy changes. These include, for example increasing sizes of vehicles, extending school opening times, and parents applying for free travel so only the seats that are needed are allocated.

The pre-consultation ran from July to November 2017, and was carried out to help inform the proposed public consultation. During this period, Suffolk County Council heard the views of over 200 people, and facilitated 28 different events, workshops, meetings and discussions.

If the consultation is approved, it will run from 12 December 2017 to 28 February 2018. The findings would be reported back to Cabinet along with a recommendation on the future school and post-16 travel policies. Any decision to change the policies would be made so that they can be implemented from September 2019 onward.

The paper is available

at: [https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(05-12-2017\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(05-12-2017),%20The%20Cabinet)