

Parish Report January 2020

Councillor

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Personal Message from Richard

As we start 2020 the hardships of 2019 are not far behind us with greater demand than ever on the charities that support those in need, I would like to extend a massive vote of thanks to all those who have done so much to help those in need.

This is also the season of extreme weather, rain, floods, fog, ice and snow. If you have to venture out during severe weather conditions I urge you to take care and take reasonable precautions to stay safe.

During a recent vacancy on Long Melford Parish Council I was co-opted back into service following a somewhat brief retirement from local council work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me during the year as I strive to support our community.

Impact of General Election Moratorium

The election moratorium started on 6 November, and consequently a number of decisions and meetings at Suffolk County Council have been delayed.

The 2020/21 budget proposals would normally have been scrutinised in early December, but this has now been postponed to a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 7 January. Following this, the budget proposals will go to Cabinet on 28 January and finally to Council on 13 February.

The Council is unable to launch consultations during the moratorium, so the long-awaited children's centre consultation will need to wait until the new year. We still don't have any information about when exactly this consultation will be ready. Similarly, the council will not be able to publish the first draft of the Ipswich Northern Bypass business case until after the election.

Plans for civil parking enforcement across Suffolk

Civil parking enforcement is expected to be rolled out across Suffolk from 31 January 2020. Currently Ipswich Borough Council is already responsible for parking enforcement, however across the rest of the county it is the police who are responsible.

Under the new plans, West Suffolk Council and East Suffolk Council will take on the responsibility of parking enforcement in their own areas. IBC and WSC will also cover the Mid-Suffolk and Babergh area on an agreed operational split: WSC will operate in the northern two-thirds of Mid Suffolk and the western half of Babergh, and IBC will operate in the remaining areas.

A consistent approach is being planned, to ensure that fines are the same across the whole county