

September County Councillor Report from Cllr Stuart Bird

HIGHWAYS ISSUES

FOOPATH IN FRONT OF MARINERS PUB

The footpath at this location is not separated from the road by a kerb, only a white line. The line markings have faded and so this was referred to Highways for refreshing. A decision was made that this was not required.

I appealed against this to the Cabinet Member for Highways stating that this marking was necessary for safety reasons. He has now decided that the line will be repainted.

TREE IN FAULKENERS WAY

A tree on the verge in Faulkeners Way was damaged by a vehicle in July. A decision has now been made by County Council that a claim will be made against the vehicle insurance, and the tree will be replaced in due course.

ASCOT DRIVE

I referred the issue of uneven pavements at six locations in Ascot Drive, Walton. Remedial work is due to be carried out.

GRANGE FARM AVENUE FELIXSTOWE

I referred the issue of overgrown paths at Grange Farm Avenue Felixstowe. This is not in my Division but near to my home. Highways made a decision that work was not required. Again I appealed to the Cabinet member, Cllr Paul West. He conducted a site visit with Cllr Steve Wiles (his deputy and Councillor for the Division) and he has decided some work will be carried out.

STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT

It has been decided to split the Highways maintenance and street lighting contracts. A contract has already been awarded in March this year to "Milestone Infrastructure" for highways maintenance. A contract has now been awarded from 01 October 2023 to "J. McCann" for maintenance and fault repair of County Council street lights. The company has been in existence since 1967. The contract is for 7 years, with an option to extend by 3 years.

DISPOSAL OF BATTERIES

Batteries for domestic appliances, including vapes (which contain batteries) should not be disposed of in domestic waste bins. These create a potential fire risk if placed with other rubbish – there was a

fire at Haverhill Waste Site and another at the processing facility at Great Blakenham. Domestic batteries and vapes should be disposed of at Household Waste Recycling Centres, or those supermarkets which provide containers for used batteries.

WARM HOMES SUFFOLK

This scheme provides funding for eligible households for the installation of insulation, PV panels and heat pumps. The scheme is administered by the County Council and delivered by the District Council. Recently, further funding has been provided by the Department for Energy. The average award is £18000 for owner occupied properties and £12000 for rental properties. The qualifying criteria are an income below £31000 p.a., an EPC energy rating below D, and a property not on mains gas. More details can be obtained at warmhomessuffolk.org or by phoning 03456 037686.

COUNCILLOR STUART BIRD B.A.(HONS)

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