

March 2024 County Councillor Report

CABINET POSITIONS

There has been a recent change to some Cabinet Members at Suffolk County Council. These are : Andrew Reid (Education and SEND), Bobby Bennett (Children and Young People), Craig Rivett (Public Health and Public Protection), Philip Faircloth-Mutton (Equality and Communities). All other Cabinet holders remain the same.

HOWLETT WAY FOOTPATH

I am still in negotiation with County Highways to find a reasonable and acceptable solution to the overgrown footpath leading from the brick bus shelter to the two Trimley villages. There has been some discussion regarding the repair being funded by a housing developer as a condition for future housing development. I have made it clear that such a possible answer is too uncertain and at an unknown date in the future. The footpath is not fit to use and needs rectifying now.

POTHOLE REPAIR

In the last financial year Suffolk County Council has repaired 15000 potholes. Currently a trial is being undertaken of a “ Dragon Patcher ” vehicle. This uses compressed air to clean the affected area and clear it of loose material. The surface is then heated so it bonds correctly with the new material put in to repair the road surface. This method allows repairs to be completed five times as quickly. The vehicles also run on H.V.O. (recycled vegetable oil) rather than petrol.

NEW TREES

Suffolk County Council, in partnership with Suffolk’s District and Borough Councils, has made a third successful bid to the Government’s “ Local Authority Treescapes Fund ”. This has granted us £201,213 which will allow 1877 new trees to be planted. This includes funding for a three year maintenance programme to ensure the new trees thrive and do not die. In total £500,000 has been received from this fund, which will result in 7604 new trees being planted. The third tranche of money will mainly be used to plant in non woodland areas without tree cover, or to replace trees lost to disease.

COUNCILLOR STUART BIRD B.A.(HONS)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE NORTH AND TRIMLEY DIVISION

TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE PORT WARD