**County Councillor Report**

**August 2025**

**LOCALITY BUDGET**

I have awarded £1748 to Trimley St Mary Parish Council towards the cost of installing two additional benches at the Stennetts public open space. I have now allocated all of my budget for this financial year, up until March 2026.

**OLD KIRTON ROAD FOOTPATHS**

Parts of the footpaths on Old Kirton Road are overgrown with vegetation. This is on the section between the Primary School and the Innocence Lane junction. It is vital that these footpaths are kept in a usable condition as they are on the route to school for pupils. I am negotiating with the Cabinet Member for Highways and the Highways Team to get the overgrown sections cut back.

**RECENT FLOODING**

On Monday 21 July there were some flooding issues in Suffolk. This followed many days of heavy rainfall. High Road West in Walton, between Seaton Road and Garrison Lane was flooded with several inches of standing water. I referred this issue to the Assistant Cabinet Member for Flooding, who liaised with her staff to deal with this. Under the rules, if no flooding of residential dwellings or commercial premises has occurred, flood water on a path or road has to be checked for 24 hours to see if it drains away. Only if it remains after this time is action taken. The Highways engineer visited the site at 1500 on the Monday that it occurred, and all standing water had drained.

**NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

There are plans to open a new primary school at Felixstowe North ( the development north of Candlet Road ) and one at Brightwell Lakes in Martlesham. On 01 July I was honoured to join fellow County Councillor Patti Mulcahy ( Member for Martlesham ), and a number of senior Officers at an interview panel. We interviewed some Academy Trusts who have applied to run these schools when they have been built. It was a rigorous process, and we sat from 0830 to 1700 on the day. Our decisions have now been sent to Cabinet to ratify in September, followed by a sign off by the Department for Education.

**TRIMLEY ST MARTIN PARISH FETE**

On Saturday 05 July we held the inaugural Trimley St Martin parish fete. I was pleased to sponsor the event with £733 from my Locality Budget, and to help run the fete. Particular praise has to go to Carly Small, Parish Clerk, for months of work to organise this, and thanks also to the Parish Councillors who helped on the day. It was a windy day but it stayed dry. The fete was a success, with good attendance. I ran the coconut shy, which was great fun, and popular with adults and children. By 1500, half way through the afternoon, all three sacks of coconuts had been won. I look forward to this fete becoming a regular annual feature for the village.

COUNCILLOR STUART BIRD B.A.(HONS)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE NORTH AND TRIMLEY DIVISION

TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE PORT WARD