**LOCAL HIGHWAYS BUDGET**

During the financial year I used my budget to repair or replace 23 damaged or missing road signs, the complete resurfacing of Ascot Drive in Walton, and the skirting back of an overgrown footpath in Howlett Way.

**LOCALITY BUDGET**

During 2024 to 2025 I made the following grants :

£2000 to the Lions Club for a storage container and toilet.

£2000 to FACTS ( Community Transport ) for a portakabin.

£1990 to Kirton Athletic Football Club for a shower cubicle.

£1690 to Red Devils Football Club for a lawn mower.

£733 to Trimley St Martin Parish Council for the 2025 summer fete.

I am looking forward to helping with the fete and making it a success for the village.

**PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

I have worked with Trimley St Mary Parish Council to get an additional pedestrian crossing, in the vicinity of the two churches. The construction costs are prohibitive- an estimated £60,000 for a crossing without traffic lights ( zebra ), £100,000 with lights ( pelican ), if utilities need to be diverted, in excess of £100,000. I funded a Transport assessment, which disappointingly showed that the Department of Transport threshold for a crossing is not currently met. This is despite the heavy traffic usage on Trimley High Road.

Initially, County Highways wished to refuse a crossing due to the result of the assessment. However, with the future development of new housing on Howlett Way bringing more vehicles and pedestrians ( and because of the high build cost ) I have obtained agreement from Highways that they will impose a condition on any application for Howlett Way housing that the developer pays for a new crossing.

**HOWLETT WAY BUS SHELTERS**

Both of the bus shelters in Howlett Way had vegetation growing over the roof. After a referral to Highways, their Officers refused remedial work. After lobbying by me, the overgrowing branches at both shelters were cut back.

**TRIMLEY ST MARY QUIZ**

The Parish Council held a fund raising quiz, which was an enjoyable occasion. It was a pleasure for me to provide questions and act as a marker on the evening.

**ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME**

The County Council is consulting on a number of schemes in Suffolk, aimed at improving cycling and walking infrastructure. I am supportive of these in principle. There is a proposal for Maidstone Road and Grange Road in Felixstowe. This involves 15 enhancements, including widened paths and new junctions. However, one element would involve cutting available parking in Maidstone Road by half, only allowing parking on one side of the road. This would be unacceptable to residents who have no off road parking availability. I have made representations to the Cabinet Member at County Council, and obtained assurance that the scheme will not be approved with any loss of residential parking.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

The proposals from the Government to introduce unitary local government have been agreed. Suffolk will be a priority County for this, with new arrangements probably happening in 2027. The County Council election due for May 2025 has been abolished. The Government believe it will be impractical and ineffective to hold elections to a Council that will be abolished one or two years later.

This will mean that I will continue to serve as County Councillor for Felixstowe North ( Walton ) and the Trimley villages probably until at least 2027. I will continue to carry out my responsibilities to the best of my ability. I have a track record of lobbying to get things done. I play an active part in Council work, I sit on Scrutiny Committee where those making decisions are held to account, I have volunteered for a Budget Working Group for the last 4 years, helping to spend Council Tax money efficiently and cost effectively. I try to attend every Council meeting, as well as social and civic events. In 2024 I did not miss any meetings, my attendance since 2011 is 96.6 %.

COUNCILLOR STUART BIRD B.A.(HONS)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE NORTH AND TRIMLEY DIVISION

TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE PORT WARD