

LINK ROAD WALTON

On 14 May Bloor Homes gave a presentation to Felixstowe Town Council Planning and Environment Committee, of which I am Chairman. The most important update concerns the new link road through their development, connecting Walton High Street with Candlet Road.

The opening of this road was conditioned to occur at a trigger point stipulated as part of the original planning consent. Each phase was determined – the first and second roundabouts, followed by the connecting spine road. Furthermore, it was explained that the road would not be safe for public use while it was being crossed by construction vehicles on site.

Bloor have confirmed that the road should be completed and open for use at the end of July this year. This new route should reduce the amount of vehicles travelling through the Trimley villages, and was considered vital when the original planning application was submitted.

ANIMAL WELFARE

At Suffolk County Council on 22 May Full Council passed a motion concerning animal welfare. We resolved that the giving of live animals as a gift or prize at events held on County Council owned or managed land would be banned. This outdated, cruel and inconsiderate practice is still occurring, although much diminished. Council considered that we had to send a signal that we would no longer sanction this activity.

MY COUNCIL DUTIES

At Felixstowe Town Council, in addition to being a Member of Finance Committee and Chairman of Planning Committee, I am also currently Chairman of a Neighbourhood Plan Feasibility Group. This is investigating the merits of the Town Council producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Town. It is shortly to make a recommendation whether this should proceed or not.

At County Council, I have volunteered for two additional roles as well as membership of Scrutiny Committee, and Development and Regulation (Planning) Committee. I am part of a Working Group assisting the Cabinet Member in producing a final business case for our preferred unitary government model. I am also on a Task and Finish Group concerning Traffic Regulation Orders. TROs are required for all road use modifications – change of speed limit, yellow lines, residents parking bays, etc. We will consider whether the current processes, costs and timings of the system are still fit for purpose, and will report back to Scrutiny Committee.

COUNCILLOR STUART BIRD B.A.(HONS)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE NORTH AND TRIMLEY DIVISION

TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE PORT WARD