**County Councillor Report**

**September 2025**

**FOOTPATH AT OLD KIRTON ROAD**

There is a section of path overgrown at Old Kirton Road, approaching the Innocence Lane junction. It is particularly important that this path is maintained in a usable condition, as children us it to walk to school. When this was referred to Highways the initial decision was that work was not required. I took up the case and lobbied the Cabinet Member. I argued assertively and insistently that the overgrown vegetation is cut back. I rejected the case put by Highways that there is path that can be used on the other side of the road. Why have paths on both sides if only one is going to be maintained ?

I am pleased to report that as a result of my intervention, a 40 metre section of this path will now be cut back. The decision was made on 18 August, therefore work should take place within the 14 week allowable window from that date.

**FAULKENERS WAY PLAY AREA**

On 05 August the official opening of the new play area at Faulkeners Way took place. The event was a fun day for families, with activities, entertainment, and free food. Thanks go to Lynn Beal, Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for organising this. Praise also goes to David Southgate, Chairman of the Parish Council, for years of work to bring this play equipment project to fruition. The scheme was an £85,000 replacement and upgrade of this play area, which was over 40 years old. I was delighted to contribute £4144 towards the cost.

The event was well attended, and great fun. I enjoyed trying out the new zip wire !

**TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

You will recall that I volunteered to be part of a Task and Finish Group looking into the procedures for Traffic Regulation Orders ( TROs ). These are legal agreements required for any alterations on the highway – yellow lines, parking bays or residents’ parking, alterations to the speed limit. We have recommended the introduction of a simple guide to the process of applying for a TRO. This will explain the process, how long it takes, the estimated costs, the rules involved when the Cabinet Member makes the decision, and an application form to use. This guide should be published on the County Council website, and be available to Councillors and Parish Councils who request TROs.

These recommendations will go to Scrutiny Committee, which established the Task and Finish Group, and then hopefully onto Cabinet to approve.

COUNCILLOR STUART BIRD B.A.(HONS)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE NORTH AND TRIMLEY DIVISION

TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE PORT WARD