

Coddenham Parish Council Annual Meeting

New CEO

Arthur Charvonia has been appointed recently and is a firm believer in public sector reform, which means we should be pooling resources including staff, buildings and cash to try and improve service standards and provide better value for money – something I have been advocating for some time. I really look forward to working with him as it should make a very positive difference to Suffolk as a whole. It could be described as a Suffolk plc approach.

Planning Reforms

The proposal is to build 95,000 new homes in Suffolk within twenty years which is a considerable challenge. In Mid Suffolk the current proposed major locations are around Stowmarket, Eye and in the west of the district. It is imperative that the parish is proactive on what it would like to see happen in the village and can therefore be proactive and influence the overall district plans.

Dukes Head Pub

Following a meeting with the Chief Executive, the district is happy to help with funding to support a community purchase if required and current policy is to prevent the building being changed into residential use. Environmental Health are looking to see if enforcement action can be taken to clear up the mess at the rear of the pub and in the rear garden. Subject to confirmation from the shared revenue partnership, minimal business rates are currently being paid (10%). There are currently no grounds for a compulsory purchase.

A14 / A140 Closures

A solution is required for enforcing diversion routes when the above roads are closed. I have spoken directly with the Chief Constable who now understands the specific difficulties Coddenham faces. The solution will only work if Highways England the County Council and Suffolk Police work together as a matter of great urgency to find an answer. The current situation is unacceptable. The long term solution for Orwell Crossing closures seems to be a new northern by pass for Ipswich.

New Website/ Phone Number

A new single access number has gone live for the council – 0300 123 4000 which compliments the new website. So far it seems to work well.

Headquarters Move to Ipswich

The main reason for the move is saving money – I really hope the projected savings will be realised!! The current site will be sold for development and the money reinvested in the council.

Community Infra Structure Levy

The replacement for the section 106 development monies is now up and running and a list of the payments is published on the website of which Coddenham and other parishes are involved. The latest payment to Mid Suffolk was over £500,000

20mph Enforcement

Generally the police do not enforce the 20 mph limit unless there is a track record of serious accidents. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams can carry out enforcement if necessary. The parish is on the list for enforcement of the traffic flow system and the problem of HGVs

Illegal Traveller Sites

Work has now recommenced on establishing at least temporary sites for travellers, which will help reduce the frequency of illegal sites.

Police Notes

The new rural crime strategy was launched in March

Extra resources are being put into roads policing and the casualty reduction team and speeding enforcement.

The new Stowmarket cadets scheme is very successful

All county police officers have been retrained on dealing with domestic abuse.

The joint work with Police and Fire continues with a new station being planned for Stowmarket, also involving the district council

101 should improve from the summer following a major investment programme

Local authorities will take full responsibility for civil parking enforcement from April 2019 at the latest.

Recruitment for new officers and PCSOs is also continuing.

The current budget of £122 million is unlikely to increase and savings of £6.5 million by 2020 are required – quite a challenge!

Tim Passmore

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