

## County Councillor Report



### Palgrave Parish Council, March 2024

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**Budget Setting** – the County Council agreed its budget for 2024/'25 at full council on 15<sup>th</sup> February. The budget must respond to cost pressures from inflation and increased service demand and some difficult decisions have been necessary.

**SEND Services** – Suffolk's SEND services are provided through a Local Area Partnership which includes both Suffolk County Council and its NHS health service partners. An inspection was carried out jointly for the first time by both Ofsted and the CQC (Care Quality Commission) last November, the report has been recently issued and is critical of how the service is delivered – refer to: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50238584>

**Consultation on Devolution Proposals** - A 10-week public consultation on our proposed devolution deal with the Government will run from 18<sup>th</sup> March until 26<sup>th</sup> May. The consultation will be available through our website [www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution) and social media.

**Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Scheme** - The [ESO East Anglia Network Study](#), published today (12 March 2024) by The National Grid Electricity System Operator, was set up to explore if there were better ways to connect offshore wind in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. It has found potential ways to reduce the need for pylon lines across the three counties through connections from a marine cable to the east coast. The report findings could affect proposals for the Norwich to Tilbury line potentially replacing it with two offshore links but as yet implications are uncertain and under review.

**Shepherd's Grove – Jaynic DC/22/2190/HYB** - On 8<sup>th</sup> March West Suffolk's development control committee considered this application and voted to refuse (10 votes for, three against, one abstention), contrary to the officer's recommendation for approval. It has been effectively deferred until a risk assessment is completed, when it will return to the council for a final decision.

**Shepherd's Grove - Evolution Warehousing DC/23/1154/OUT** – pending a decision including implications of a final decision on Jaynic's proposal.

**Suffolk Walking Festival** - Kicks off on Saturday 11 May and takes place over two weeks with walks to suit all ages and backgrounds. Tickets for this year's walk are now on sale, visit [www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk) for more details on the programme and to buy tickets.

**Brome Reservoir, near Eye** - Request for a Scoping Opinion (EIA) DC/24/00515 - Construction of a 15-ha reservoir and associated pipeline - in the Parishes Of Yaxley, Eye & Hoxne. The reservoir would supply water from the Waveney River for Cranswick's chicken processing factory's proposed Phase 2 expansion (+circa 31,000m<sup>2</sup>) and a new mill building DC/24/00513 on the Eye Airfield.

Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: [Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk) Tel: 07714-597980 Twitter: @jesstfleming