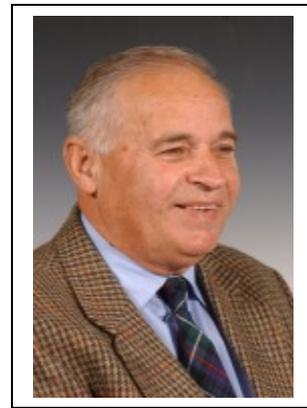


Parish Report April 2018

Councillor

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Final call for feedback on proposals to change home to school transport

On Wednesday 28 February 2018 the consultation to help find a long-term solution to providing affordable home to school transport will close.

In Suffolk, £21 million of taxpayers' money is spent every year getting children to and from school. Suffolk County Council has already introduced a number of efficiency changes to the service saving around £2.6 million. Now, like many other councils across the country, the authority needs to consider making more significant changes across a number of areas, including home to school travel.

The consultation highlights the challenges faced with funding and asks residents for their thoughts on how we adapt to the changing education landscape in Suffolk as schools continue to become more independent, moving away from being historically under local authority control, with new powers to set their choice of admissions, adjust term dates and manage school travel plans.

The council's current school and post-16 travel policies go above legal requirements, the consultation seeks views on changing these policies, giving the opportunity to explore local solutions as well as three alternative options for children aged 5-16 and 16 plus.

Over 3500 people have already responded to the school and post-16 travel consultation surveys, over 151 people attended one of the consultation workshops and 36 people attended the 'Have your say' event where alternative solutions were presented.

All of the feedback gathered will be carefully and thoroughly considered by Suffolk County Council's Cabinet in June 2018. The consultation is open until **Wednesday 28 February 2018**. Full details about the proposals and how people can have their say are available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel.

Suffolk to use Drone technology to help manage blue light service incidents

15 February 2018 marks the official launch of the use of two Small Unmanned Surveillance Aircraft in Suffolk. The technology, commonly referred to as drones have been developed and funded by Suffolk Resilience Forum for use across the county.

As part of a multi-agency Air Support Unit, the drones will be used by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue and Norfolk & Suffolk 4x4 Response.

The drones will provide a range of aerial surveillance options to support emergency services and voluntary organisations across a wide range of incidents including:

- large-scale open fires or complex structural fires
- urban area search and rescue
- major incident or disaster response
- investigative support
- hazardous materials response including Environmental Impact Assessments
- road traffic accidents
- significant multi-agency events
- missing persons searches
- pre-planned operations and risk information gathering

By improving the ability to see and understand what is happening from the air, the drones will support emergency services and voluntary organisations to inform the decisions they make when dealing with an incident. They will also help to reduce risks to the public and emergency service workers.

The drones and camera equipment cost around £42,500 and they are based at Woodbridge Fire and Police station, have 24/7 emergency response capability and can be used by 17 specially trained remote pilots. The drones will provide important visual information which will be used alongside experienced operational commanders to complete the decision-making picture and help resolve incidents as quickly and safely as possible.

The drones have already been used a number of times, most recently at the fire at Saxmundham train station to not only provide pictures of fire spreading and possible collapse in areas that may not have been possible for firefighters to access or see, but also to assist the joint investigation team to determine the location and possible cause of the fire

Suffolk Public Health chiefs urge people to take Asthma seriously

Around 1 in 11 children in the UK are affected by asthma but not all children have their disease well managed. There's no cure for asthma yet but with the right treatment children can lead a normal and active life.

Suffolk County Council Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Groups of GPs are launching a campaign to raise awareness of the seriousness of asthma. The aim is to encourage parents whose children have asthma to make sure their child has an asthma plan and regular reviews at the surgery. Practice nurses can help put together a plan and make sure that the child is using their inhaler correctly.

Schools have an important part to play in keeping children with asthma safe, all children who have asthma should have a copy of their asthma plan and a spare reliever inhaler at their school.

Posters highlighting this public health message will be sent to GP surgeries, children's centres, schools, nurseries, libraries, leisure centres and pharmacies.

The next phase of Raising the Bar gets under way - Creating the best education system for Suffolk's children and young people

The draft Raising the Bar strategy 2018-20 will be considered when Suffolk County Council's Cabinet meets on Tuesday 20 February.

Cabinet will discuss the strategy's plan to build on the achievements to date and to develop the ambition to create an education system for children and young people in Suffolk that is among the best in England. The Raising the Bar 2018-20 Strategy has been developed in consultation with education and training providers across Suffolk. Including headteachers, teachers and other education settings.

The proposed strategy focuses on the following three priorities:

- Exceptional leadership and governance across the education sector – building a strong community of people who can lead and inspire our children
- Excellence in teaching and learning, driven by system led improvement and innovation –improving the professional development support services offer to our schools
- The best opportunities for every child and young person – extending the range of learning opportunities available for children and young people in Suffolk

The Raising the Bar programme was first established in 2012. Five years on, many more children now attend 'Good' or 'Outstanding' schools and outcomes for children and young people of all ages have improved.

- 87% of Suffolk schools are now judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, which is an increase of 12% from 2015. We also continue to improve at a rate twice as fast as national.
- 96% of Suffolk childcare providers (non-domestic premises) are now judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, which is an increase of 13% since 2015 and in line with national.