

## **Parish report for the Bungay and Wainford villages Division at the end of February 2026 from County Councillor Judy Cloke.**

### **Bungay:**

In the last few weeks I have been liaising with the Town Clerk Julie, SCC Cabinet member Chris Chambers and the Highways team in trying to bring a resolution to the long- delayed Parking Review in Bungay (this is not the first time I have tried) It seems the stalling point may be the fact ESC issued residents' on street parking permits during COVID and the scheme is coming to an end. It cannot be renewed because at the time of its inception, permission was not sought from SCC Highways to do this. Normally residents' parking schemes require a Traffic Regulation order and for specific areas to be measured and marked. This did not happen and the lack of a proper legal standing for the 'scheme' has come to light during the review. Discussions are ongoing.

Together with Jo Kerridge our local Highways engineer, I visited residents of Quaves Lane regarding their long-standing complaints about the poor parking habits of some residents and people visiting the town causing problems for oil delivery drivers, emergency responders and refuse lorries. I know this has been ongoing for many years. Quaves Lane formed part of the wider parking review, but since the latter is taking so long, I am delighted to report this has now been brought forward as a 'one off' and last week the proposed plans for amending the parking restrictions in this very narrow road were issued to residents for consultation.

Jo and I also visited Waveney Truck Parts again regarding the difficulties their delivery drivers face with trying to negotiate poorly parked vehicles which restrict access to their site. I am pleased to report the sign advising lorries they should not go straight down Nethergate St was put in place in February – the funding for this came from my Highways Budget.

Bungay Primary School is this week opening their Early Years Garden, which has been partly funded by a contribution from my Locality Budget.

### **Mettingham.**

I funded a traffic survey from my Highways budget towards the end of last year; there is also a permanent monitoring site in Shipmeadow , the results of both of these have been shared with the Parish Council (and Barsham & Shipmeadow PC) and w/c 9 March, Jo and I will meet with the Parish Council to discuss Councillors' and residents' concerns.

### **Barsham and Shipmeadow.**

Following the recent tragic accident in Barsham, Jo has advised the Police need to report their findings regarding the cause of the accident before any potential safety measures can be considered.

At a recent Flooding seminar, I spoke to the Rights of Way Ops manager about Gull Lane and asked how soon it can be reopened, she said she would try and find out and get back to me. She is very knowledgeable and has been in the role for some time- she knows exactly where it is.

### **Mutford.**

The Parish Council at their last meeting needed some advice regarding creating a wildlife area, I have been pleased to put them in touch with the senior Ecologist at SCC whom I have known for many years and whose team can offer a site visit and free advice.

### **St James.**

The last remaining amount of Locality funding has been offered to St James Parish Meeting in order to help fund dog bins and another seat to enhance the Community Orchard.

### **St Cross**

Finally -the Slow – Horses signs should be erected shortly in Mendham Lane, there has been much discussion about the type of sign and the wording, but we finally reached a decision. These were funded from my Highways budget.

### **Willingham St Mary.**

Last but not least, the new ‘village gateway’ sign is being installed – also from my Highways budget. By the time you receive this, it should be in place.

## **Suffolk wide:**

### **The Gull Wing Bridge:**

In February SCC Scrutiny Committee held their meeting at Riverside in Lowestoft in order to discuss the success or otherwise of the biggest construction project ever managed by SCC. Though not a member of this committee, I attended the meeting because of my interest in Highways issues. The majority of comments were favourable and interestingly there had been an ‘outage’ over the previous weekend. Because navigation cannot be impeded, the bridge remained open for several hours, causing issues with road traffic. As with the issues of the broken barriers, lessons have been learned and some spare parts are being stored locally. After the meeting, attendees were invited on a tour of the bridge. I wasn’t able to take part.

### **Public Health Report:**

Earlier this month SCC launched our 2025 Annual Public Health Report. This year’s report is different because it was led by young people, with their films, voices and experiences forming the substance of the report and shaping its focus and recommendations.

Public health is often discussed in terms of data, services and long-term trends. Those things matter, but so does lived experience. This year's report places particular emphasis on youth social action, recognising that young people's wellbeing is closely linked to whether they feel heard, supported and able to influence the places where they live.

Cllr Steve Wiles said:

As part of the process, I was interviewed by young people who were directly involved in developing the report and I attended the launch to hear first-hand about their work. Being questioned by young people about public health priorities was a valuable experience. Their questions were thoughtful and grounded in their own experiences, and they challenged us as decision-makers to think carefully about how our policies translate into everyday life.

Young people from across Suffolk took part in a series of hacks held in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft, working alongside partners from the voluntary and community sector. These sessions gave young people the opportunity to explore issues affecting their wellbeing and to put forward practical ideas about how communities and organisations could respond.

### **Suffolk Business Board is recruiting**

Suffolk County Council is inviting applications from experienced and influential local business people to join the Suffolk Business Board, which was established in 2024 to help drive economic growth across the county.

The board meets 6 times a year to help shape economic strategy and priorities for Suffolk, oversee delivery of funded programmes such as business support and skills training, and work closely with partners such as district councils, neighbouring counties and national economic and trade bodies.

Existing [Suffolk Business Board members](#) include a strong core of local business leaders alongside representatives from education and key strategic partners. New members will be joining a dynamic and proactive group, with the opportunity to immediately begin contributing to Suffolk's economic development.

### **Chief Executive**

You may have read in the papers Nicola Beach is to step down. I have always found her a very approachable and knowledgeable person who really cares for Suffolk and its residents. She will be replaced by her two deputies, Mark Ash and Andrew Cook. I was part of the interviewing panel which was convened before appointing them. They have worked together for a while and certainly seemed to be in tune with one another and able to take SCC forward into LGR

### **The Budget**

Demand pressures, particularly in adult and children's social care, are expected to add £32.2 million to the council's costs next year. As a result, around 77 pence of every £1 the council spends will go directly towards services for people, including public health.

The remaining 23 pence in every £1 will fund all other services, such as fire and rescue, highways and waste management, alongside the staff, infrastructure and technology that support service delivery across the council.

To deliver a balanced budget, councillors approved £46.5 million of savings. These will be achieved through service improvements, more efficient ways of working, and a reduction in employer pension contributions, made possible by the strong performance of the council's pension fund. This reduction in employer contributions will not reduce employees' pension benefits.

Councillors also agreed a 4.99% increase in the county council's share of Council Tax, comprising a 2.99% general increase for county-wide services and a further 2% Adult Social Care Precept to help meet rising care costs.

### **Vehicles blocking resurfacing work**

Suffolk County Council is to launch a trial scheme to remove vehicles that are blocking highways resurfacing work.

The move comes following repeated issues with vehicles across Suffolk that have been left in roads where works are scheduled, despite advance warnings they were due to take place. This has led to the cancellation of entire resurfacing works or small areas being left where vehicle parking has prevented access for equipment. Offending vehicles will be either moved to a safe place in line of sight from where they were parked, or to a secure compound in Bury St Edmunds. Any vehicle which is moved to enable works to go ahead will be subject to a £70 Fixed Penalty Charge Notice, reduced to £35 if paid within 14 days.

This will be in place currently to the end of May

Judy Cloke March 2026