
March 2021 District Councillor report

for

Ousden Parish Council

Council Tax rise unveiled for 20/21. West Suffolk Council's cabinet on Tuesday night outlined its 2021/22 budget plans for a rise of 3p per week for a Band D property in the former St Edmundsbury area and 22p a week in the former Forest Heath area.

Car Parks. West Suffolk District Council has confirmed it will continue to pause a long-delayed rise in parking charges to help communities and businesses during the pandemic.

Census 2021 Preparations are underway for Census 2021. Starting from 22 February 2021, all households in West Suffolk will receive a postcard telling them about Census 2021 and asking them to look out for a 'pack' that will arrive with them sometime after 3 March 2021. This pack will include their census access code to go online and complete the census questionnaire. There will, of course, be residents who are unable to complete the census online and for whom a variety of support will be available. This support includes the following:

comprehensive guidance and support in many languages and formats

- help in local centres with trained staff and online access
- an ONS contact centre to provide help via telephone, web chat and social media
- field staff contacting households that have not yet responded
- accessible census questionnaires, for example in large print
- the option to request paper questionnaires

The elections on 6 May have been confirmed and while preparations have been in hand since last year to ensure that they can be run safely and transparently, the hard work of putting the plans into action is now beginning and assure you of how seriously we are taking the safety of staff, candidates, and electors.

There are currently 125,000 voters on the electoral register, and since December we have been promoting postal and proxy voting as alternatives to voting in person. This includes writing to 12,000 people over 70 and also to those clinically vulnerable who do not have a postal vote.

Every polling station has been health and safety risk assessed and training and support designed for all polling station staff, with adaptations to avoid contact with and between electors. This includes ventilation, layout, strict distancing and not handling poll cards.

Electors will be told what to expect. As well as the usual facemask, hand sanitising, social distancing, they should be prepared to queue outside and bring a pen or pencil to make their mark, if they wish to.

In addition to the delayed Suffolk County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections, we will be running by-elections for two west Suffolk wards (Moreton Hall and Lakenheath) and eight town and parish seats – as well as the Great Barton Neighbourhood Plan referendum.

One end of the first floor of West Suffolk House will be cleared as a secure area for processing postal votes only.

At close of poll, ballot boxes will be accepted in a safe way at two count venues in Bury St Edmunds, Skyliner Way and Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre. This gives us space to ensure good social distancing on the count floor. The papers will be verified overnight. Counting on the Suffolk County Council divisions will begin on Saturday morning and continue on Sunday with the Police and Crime Commissioner votes. Counting the by-elections and referendum is to be confirmed.

This is an overview with details yet to be confirmed, including on access to the count and the count process. If you have any particular areas of concern, please do contact the elections team at elections@westsuffolk.gov.uk

16 new COVID-19 rapid testing centres to open in Suffolk

- More rural communities served by new locations
- Soon, 28 sites will be open across county
- Tests take 15 minutes and results returned within the hour

A further 16 rapid testing centres for COVID-19 are to open in Suffolk, bringing the total number of centres to 28.

The sites are planned to open over the next two weeks in Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth, Southwold, Aldeburgh, Saxmundham, Debenham, Framlingham, Woodbridge, Eye, Holbrook, Needham Market, Elmswell, Hadleigh, Nayland and Brandon - serving more rural communities across the county.

The 28 centres use 'lateral flow' testing to identify people who may have coronavirus but who do not have symptoms. The tests are for people who do not have symptoms of coronavirus and cannot work from home.

It's because one in three people with coronavirus do not have symptoms so regular testing is vital in breaking the chain of infection and keeping Suffolk safe.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Suffolk County Council's leader and chair of the Suffolk Local Outbreak Engagement Board, said:

"Testing is a key weapon in the battle against COVID-19, so we are delighted to be able to open a further 16 sites in more rural communities across Suffolk.

"Whilst Suffolk's vaccine rollout programme rapidly picks up pace, we need people who can't work from home and who don't have symptoms to get tested twice a week. It's how we will break the chain of infections and protect vulnerable people.

"It takes just 15 minutes to get a test and you get the results within the hour. 12,780 tests have already been completed. Suffolk needs everyone to play their part."

All 28 centres are listed on Suffolk County Council’s website, including their addresses and opening times. The testing sites are operated on behalf of Suffolk County Council (SCC). Tests should be booked online or by phone in advance.

Employers are being urged to encourage their staff to book regular testing.

There are already 12 facilities open, including at the University of Suffolk in Ipswich, the STEM Centre in Western Way at West Suffolk College, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill Arts Centre, St Etheldreda’s parish centre in Newmarket, and Kirkley & Pakefield FC in Lowestoft.

Dog Fouling

Please follow the link below

<https://www.facebook.com/WestSuffolkCouncil/photos/a.279762395392747/3741786179190334/>

Dog fouling Social Media campaign

Post Number	Day/date	Message
1	Tuesday 23 rd of Feb	Walking the dog, remember to take bags
2	Friday 26 th of Feb	Walking at night, keep your dog close
3	Tuesday 2 nd of Mar	Scoop every poop
4	Friday 5 th of Mar	Clear up after your dog
5	Tuesday 9 th of Mar	Don’t fill it and fling it
6	Friday 12 th of Mar	Any public litter bin will do
7	Tuesday 16 th of Mar	Any public litter bin will do
8	Friday 19 th of Mar	Dog fouling affects everyone
9	Tuesday 23 rd of Mar	Dog fouling is a nuisance
10	Friday 26 th of Mar	Report offenders to the council

View the attachment ‘[Community Action Plan - Dog Fouling.pdf](#)’ for more detail.

new water pipeline

The following letter from Anglian Water sets out a proposed new pipeline. The attachment [B2B Newsletter.pdf](#) shows the proposed route and the consultation process. Whilst not directly affecting Ousden there may be peripheral impacts from roadworks in the locality.



Cllr Mike Chester
West Suffolk Council
West Suffolk House
Western Way
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 3YU

**Anglian Water Services
Ltd**
3rd Floor
Worldwide House
Thorpe Wood
Peterborough
Cambridge
PE3 6SB

Tel 03457 145 145
www.anglianwater.co.uk
Our ref WAT-07255-04

Your ref 57182448

17 February 2021

Dear Cllr Chester,
Bexwell to Bury pipeline

We wanted to let you know about our plans for a new water pipeline between Bexwell and Bury, which will pass through your ward, and our plans to engage with the wider community in the next few weeks.

Our 25-year Water Resources Management Plan sets out how we will manage water across our region. We have consulted widely and have support from customers and regulators for our plans. We will be investing in our network to make the best use of water resources whilst minimising the impact on the wider environment. Within the plan is a programme to install a series of interconnecting pipelines to move water across the region. The new Bexwell to Bury pipeline is part of this programme.

Why is the pipeline needed?

The new pipeline will connect into our existing water network and make it easier for us to move water to where it is needed. This pipeline will increase the reliability of the local water supply and will enable us to reduce the amount of water we take from the environment and strengthen resilience.

We have worked hard to ensure the preferred pipeline route minimises the impact on residents, businesses, landowners, and on the environment, and we will continue to work with landowners throughout the project.

Inviting you to our virtual event

We are committed to keeping you and the communities within your area, updated as our plans develop. That's why we have developed an online virtual event which contains all the information you would expect to see at a physical event that we would have held in a village hall or a community centre.

Please come to our virtual event which is being held from

9.00am on Monday 22 February until 11.00pm on Monday 8 March 2021. To access the event, please visit our website from 22 February <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/spa>.

A newsletter containing more information about the pipeline, the online event and how to take part, is attached to this mailing. If you have any questions, or would like further information, please contact the team at StrategicPipelines@anglianwater.co.uk quoting reference **57182448** or **B2B** in the subject line.

Yours sincerely

Deryl Roberts

Head of Consenting
Anglian Water - Strategic Pipeline Alliance

Mike Chester

District Councillor Chedburgh and Chevington Ward