



# December 2021 Row Heath Monthly Parish Newsletter

From Councillor Colin Noble, County Councillor for Row Heath

A green banner with the NHS logo in the top right corner. On the left is the HM Government logo. The central text reads "Let's keep life moving." Below this are five icons with labels: a wavy line for "FRESH AIR", a test tube for "TESTING", a face mask for "FACE COVERINGS", a smartphone for "APP", and hands being washed for "HANDWASHING". At the bottom center is the URL "gov.uk/coronavirus".

HM Government

**Let's keep life moving.**

FRESH AIR TESTING FACE COVERINGS APP HANDWASHING

gov.uk/coronavirus

Visit [suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus) for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

Thank you for reading my monthly Parish report.

Once again, the news on Covid is worrying and so as we gather for meetings its important to take those basic steps to protect ourselves, our families, friends and colleagues.

- Get fully vaccinated and have your booster when it's due
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water
- Always wear a face covering in crowded areas
- Ventilate indoor spaces
- Get tested regularly and stay at home if you feel unwell.

We know that not everyone can follow all the guidance, such as those who can't wear face coverings, but that's ok. It all helps.

As we enter the Christmas period it's important to think of those in our community for whom Christmas is not an easy time. A Christmas card or a

quick call or chat over the garden fence can really help those struggling a bit at this time of year.

Have a lovely Christmas and like all of us I hope we can spend it with our loved ones and friends without restrictions, but we all watch the advice as the situation changes. Here's to a happy, safe and successful New Year.

Take Care,  
Colin.

## **Share your thoughts on prioritising future County Council Services as part of planning the 2022/23 budget**

On November 19<sup>th</sup> a public consultation was launched to find out where people place their priorities and thoughts on how council funds its services.

Following the Chancellor's recent Spending Review and Autumn Budget, Suffolk County Council will have the option to raise Council Tax by 2% and the Adult Social Care Precept by 2%. With local authorities continuing to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, global supply chain issues and climate change, Suffolk County Council is asking residents for their thoughts on helping the council prioritise its funding towards services in the coming financial year alongside meeting the continuing costs of statutory care services.

Although the last two years have proved to be an extraordinary time, the county council continues to aim to provide the best possible outcomes for local people through a multitude of frontline services that support residents, businesses, and the county at large.

With rising costs and increasing service demand year on year, the finances at our disposal have to be carefully planned and considered for us to continue to achieve a balanced budget each year in extremely challenging circumstances.

Suffolk County Council's priorities this year are to:

- promote and support the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk
- strengthen our local economy
- protect and enhance our environment
- provide value for money for the Suffolk taxpayer

With careful financial management and planning, the county council has already saved hundreds of millions of pounds during the last decade, whilst being innovative in the delivery of many of its services. Many challenges remain in the light of the recent pandemic, and the continuing difficult financial position that many local authorities have faced for a number of years.

**[More information about the council's finances and the consultation can be found at \[suffolk.gov.uk/budget2022\]\(https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/budget2022\)](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/budget2022)**

The consultation closes on Monday 20 December 2021.

## **#AllMenCan help make the change this White Ribbon Day**

The annual White Ribbon Day campaign begins this Thursday, November 25, with the aim of helping to end violence against women and girls.

This year's theme is **[#AllMenCan](https://www.allmencan.org/)**, following on from the tragic murder of Sarah Everard in March and the conversations this led to about the role of men in making women feel safe at home, at work and in their community.

It is easy for men to assume that simply not being violent or abusive to women themselves is enough, when in reality so much more needs to be done.

Suffolk County council is joining with partners from the Safer Stronger Communities Board to ask all men in Suffolk to make the White Ribbon Promise; to never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women. This includes promising to never look the other way, removing the onus on women to keep themselves safe and acknowledging that whilst violence against women isn't the fault of all men, it is their responsibility.

It is incredibly important that everyone feels safe in Suffolk and our council remains committed to working closely with partners, including the police and district and borough councils, to provide residents with the support needed for this to happen.

Anyone who is worried that they, or someone they know, may be a victim of domestic abuse can [find dedicated information and advice on our website](#) or call the Suffolk Domestic Abuse Helpline free of charge 24 hours a day on **0800 977 5690**.

We also have a Domestic Abuse Champion network to empower organisations to help people experiencing domestic abuse. Councils across Suffolk have provided funding for over 500 champions to be trained – equipping them with the skills they need to offer consistent information, advice and support to bring lasting positive changes for victims across Suffolk.

Organisations wishing to benefit from free domestic abuse training can find out more about becoming a champion by emailing [dachampions@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:dachampions@suffolk.gov.uk).

In addition, our officers will be visiting rural foodbanks in the county during the White Ribbon campaign to meet with service users and staff, as we continue to raise awareness in our communities about the signs of domestic abuse and the help available.

We've also partnered with several Suffolk high schools to provide students with the opportunity to lend their support to the campaign by participating in different activities, such as art sessions.

Further information on this and our other plans for White Ribbon Day itself, and the 16 days of action following this, will be shared on our council's Twitter and Facebook pages.

You can play your part by visiting [www.whiteribbon.org.uk](http://www.whiteribbon.org.uk) to find out more about the White Ribbon campaign and to make the promise yourself.

Together we must support victims to recognise domestic abuse and seek help at the earliest opportunity.

## **Launch of public consultation over housing scheme for Mildenhall**

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, a public consultation into proposals by Suffolk County Council to build a new community of more than 1,000 homes to the west of Mildenhall was launched.

The site comprises 83 hectares of arable land, adjacent to the Mildenhall hub with the B1102 West Row Road through its centre, along the western edge of the town. The county council is the majority landowner.

The new community would include up to 1,300 houses - with 30% classed as affordable - parks, a new primary school, a new local centre and an area for

jobs, and an 80-bed supported living adult care facility, plus 10 hectares of open space.

The development would incorporate environmental measures such as a pedestrian and cycle-friendly urban design and layout to encourage non-car use, new connections to public transport, and wildlife-friendly corridors.

Houses would be built to the government's Future Homes-standard using low carbon heating systems and renewable energy sources, with infrastructure for electrical vehicle charging and water efficiency measures.

**Councillor Richard Smith, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste, said:**

“This proposed scheme will bring new homes and investment to Mildenhall, and to shape it we want to hear what people think.

“The views of the public are important to us and will be incorporated wherever possible to ensure that we deliver what the community needs, so I would urge people to give us their ideas in this consultation.”

The site is bounded by an existing industrial estate to its north, the existing urban boundary of Mildenhall to its east, the River Lark and Mildenhall Hub to its south, and designated countryside to its west.

The site has been previously allocated for mixed-use development of housing, employment, schools, shops, open spaces and recreation within the adopted Local Plan for West Suffolk Council.

The latest consultation has been launched after West Suffolk Council last week approved Suffolk County Council's Masterplan for the site.

A previous consultation was held at the start of 2021 to help shape the initial Masterplan. This further consultation is to help establish views on the revised Masterplan and will run until January 10, 2022.

For more details of the proposed scheme, and to leave comments, go to the [Suffolk County Council Land west of Mildenhall website](#). All comments must be received by 4pm on Monday January 10, 2022.

## **Suffolk Highways**

We are working through the Suffolk Highways review of traffic issues within our villages. These proposals will require funding, the currently this would be split between Locality Budgets and Parish allocation.

## **West Suffolk Draft Local Plan**

The West Suffolk Draft Local Plan “Issues and Options” document for Public Consultation has now been approved by Full Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2020.

The Local plan working group continues to review the various options currently on the table.

## **Police Matters Reporting**

Suffolk Police reporting numbers have now been updated to include an additional service for the 101 number for Non-Emergency reports you can now also be reported online

[www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something](http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something)

## Sunnica Solar Energy Farm

The Sunnica Solar Energy Farm “Statutory Consultation Period” was completed on the 18th of December 2020.

We now await the Sunnica response to this “Public Consultation” process.

A joint report has been submitted on behalf of: Suffolk CC, West Suffolk DC, Cambridge CC & East Cambridge DC. Currently the Technical Workshops have recommenced with Sunnica and Council officers. Both sides are currently working through the “Statement of agreement” process and once published I will advise.

All Residents in affected areas will now have received in the post the Sunnica “Updated Newsletter” Showing several changes to their original scheme.

Sunnica have now submitted their Adequacy of Consultation submission the SCC/WSC & CCC/ECDC are currently working though their response.

The Sunnica website is available for all information at

[www.sunnica.co.uk /downloads](http://www.sunnica.co.uk/downloads)

The Sunnica webinars dates are now available via their web page at

<https://sunnica.co.uk/public-consultation/#webinars> .

## **Rough Sleeping**

West Suffolk Council are taking active steps to reduce the numbers of people rough sleeping in the West Suffolk Area. This is a very difficult and challenging situation.

If you see or suspect someone is rough sleeping, please report this to [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) or directly to the Team on 01282 7578178

## **A14**

We have been advised the Highways England will be carryout major repair works to the A14 starting later this year, copy of Highways England has already been distributed to all Parish's for their use and distribution as required.

## **Highways Locality Budget**

I have a budget for minor highways works ranging from better signage to dropped kerbs, if there is a small highways improvement you would like to see, let me know.

## **Locality Budget**

I have a small budget for community projects which can often help kick start an initiative with some seed funding or help to buy a new piece of equipment that a community group need. Let me know if there are any groups or projects that could benefit from a grant.

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