

## **Suffolk County Council Report for Clare Division Annual Summary 2023**

We spend 75p of every £1 we receive supporting those that need it most. This includes older people, children and those who are the most vulnerable in Suffolk and we provide these important public services for 365 days of the year.

The remaining 25p in every pound pays for other vital services including Suffolk Fire and Rescue, Road Maintenance, Footpaths, Public Transport, Waste Services, Libraries, Culture, Leisure, trading standards, Community Safety, Biodiversity and tackling climate change.

Your council tax means we can make a positive difference in your community and continue to provide services that you can rely on.

Our ambitions for Suffolk are split into 4 priorities which are:

- Looking After our Health and Wellbeing
- Strengthening our Local Economy
- Protecting and enhancing our environment
- Providing value for money for our Residents

Within the Division I attend as many meetings as I am able to and please do ask if you need me to attend to discuss a particular issue.

I have a locality budget which I can award to causes that meet our priorities each year. Last year I supported numerous projects including supporting parishes to enhance their environments such as tree planting or sign renovation, helping parishes host community events, supporting parishes to purchase Speed Activated signs and I awarded some money to Clare Library to make some minor improvements. I have also supported with funding to the Citizens Advice in West Suffolk and the Rural Coffee Caravan to support residents of Clare Division. I can make awards for this year from 5th May 2023 so please let me know if you have any projects that I might be able to help with, I would love to hear from you. Through my Highways Locality Budget I have funded a number of speed surveys to investigate what can be done to address some of the areas where speeding is an issue.

Highways concerns continue to take up much of the conversation at parish council meetings. Please can all issues be reported on the highways reporting tool [Suffolk County Council - ReportIT](#) and please continue to email me with items that need following up on. I have held a number of positive meetings in parishes with the highways engineer to discuss specific issues and would be happy to arrange a meeting if it would be useful to you.

At the County Council I continue to be the Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities and my priorities this year have been the Ukraine refugee response and playing our part within the Suffolk system to support residents with the cost of living. My other responsibilities include Arts and Heritage, Citizens' Advice, Community Safety (including Domestic Abuse, PREVENT and Violence Against Women and Girls), Coroner Services, Customer Services, Equality, Gypsy and Traveller Services, Human Resources, Libraries, Registrars, Safer and Stronger Communities and The Voluntary Sector

Please get in touch with me via email or telephone if you need my help on a Suffolk County Council Issue.