

## **Stradishall Parish Council – Monday 1 March 2021**

Joint report from Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrook, District Councillors for West Suffolk Council, Clare, Hundon and Kedington Ward.

We hope you are keeping well through the covid pandemic and can assure you West Suffolk Council have this as their priority work and continue to carry out their day to day work and responsibilities.

### **Council Tax 2021/22**

West Suffolk Council (WSC) plan to increase Band D property by 3p a week was passed at the full council meeting on 23 February.

Council tax income covers approx. 20% of the council's costs. They will continue to lobby MP's and the government for fairer funding.

### **Community Chest investment**

Community initiatives providing counselling, support, and improving the health and wellbeing of West Suffolk residents, are all to receive Community Chest funds.

WSC made £466,733 of Community Chest funding available for 2021-22 and received a record number of applications. The funding has gone towards organisations in the following areas:

Community buildings, Counselling and specialist services, family support; Health and wellbeing, Support groups and support services.

### **Dog Fouling Campaign 2021**

There appears to have been a recent increase in the amount of dog fouling within West Suffolk this is likely due to the time of year (dog walking during dark evenings/mornings) and also the current lockdown, which is forcing dog walkers to stay closer to home and perhaps also spend longer outside.

In order to raise awareness about this issue, promote responsible dog ownership and especially to encourage residents of affected communities to report offenders WSC have developed a campaign that will run from mid-February to the end of March.

They will run a social media based campaign that will launch on the 23 February on Facebook.

All parish and town councils will be contacted and provided with information on 'self-help' dog fouling guidance. There will be patrolling of areas identified as hotspots will involve talking to dog walkers directly (socially distanced of course) and providing bags to those without them. If anyone is caught in the act then potentially issuing fines, although from past experience this is unlikely whilst the team are present.

## Application Site Notice

You may have seen yellow site notices that appear at or close to a site where a planning application has been received. These have recently been given a make-over and now carry a QR code. This enables people with a smart phone to quickly access the details of the planning application via the online application file. The QR code contains the relevant link to the planning pages of the website. The notice itself has also been made clearer and more concise.



## Tree advice

WSC have recently updated the advice they provide on their website regarding matters relating to the protection of trees including Tree Preservation Orders and trees within a Conservation Area.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/protected-trees.cfm>

## Locality Budget

A reminder about the above as we are coming towards the end of the Council's financial year. All 3 of your district councillors receive funding to be spent across the Clare, Hundon and Kedington ward.

## Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

West Suffolk Council has successfully applied for £1.43m from the Government's Public Sector decarbonisation scheme, which will help deliver some of the actions in their plan towards being carbon neutral by 2030. The funding will help deliver a range of energy efficiency, decarbonisation and battery energy storage projects in property the council own.

Finally we would like to thank Mary (Evans) for all the work she put in to last week's gas issue in the town. She worked with WSC to ensure residents on the town were safe and warm and kept us informed.