



March 2024 Row Heath Parish Report

From Councillor Colin Noble, County Councillor for Row Heath

Thank you for reading this Parish report.

At this time of year the Council Tax bills have started to land on doorsteps and its always a difficult balance respecting people hard earned money with the need to provide vital services to our communities. Just as at the Parish Council level we work hard at the county council to make sure every penny is wisely spent to run things like adult Social Care and Children's Services as well as repairing our roads as best we can.

Here is my monthly report on things that have been happening and are coming up in the next month for your interest. As always don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can help you with.

Colin Noble.

Help with the cost-of-living crisis

The Council has produced a leaflet detailing the support that can be offered across the county and here in Row Heath.

SCC Cost of Living Leaflets with lots of information on are available for distribution.

If your Parish Council would like a supply of these to be able to give to residents please email the quantity you would like, together with your organisation name and delivery address to costofliving@suffolk.gov.uk and the county council will arrange to send these to you. Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery, although they aim to issue them sooner than this.

A printable version for easy download was requested, this can be found here: [Cost of living leaflet](#) (PDF 628KB)

All Libraries hold copies of the leaflets. The Rural Coffee Caravan have additional leaflets and can share these with warm spaces together with their information packs.

Public consultation on Suffolk County Council's proposed devolution deal starts on 18th March

A 10-week public consultation on our proposed devolution deal with the Government will start on 18th March and run through until 26th May. The consultation will be in two main parts – an open survey, hosted by Suffolk County Council, that any residents can complete

and a sample survey of 1000 Suffolk residents conducted independently by Ipsos Mori. The consultation will be available through our website www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution and social media. There will also be media coverage highlighting the consultation.

Dragon Patcher lands in Suffolk to bolster response to rural potholes

Suffolk Highways has welcomed the new pothole-repairing machine to help fix the growing number of potholes experienced nationally during the winter season, with a trial set to initially target defects in rural Suffolk.

The Dragon Patcher is a machine that releases compressed air which cleans the surface of the road, before heating the surface to a temperature that enables repair material to bond effectively with the road surface, allowing the pothole to be repaired with an aggregate and hot bitumen material.

Compared with the traditional approach of repairing potholes, the Dragon Patcher can work five times faster. This trial is in addition to the potholes being repaired around the clock as part of our routine repair programme, during the past two months Suffolk Highways has repaired 2,851 potholes across Suffolk.

Fuelled by the biodiesel, HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil), the patcher reduces raw material use and creates zero waste and has shown to provide significant carbon savings when compared to traditional patching techniques.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways, and Flooding, said:

"The recent cold and wet weather has expectedly brought a huge spike in the number of potholes appearing across our roads and we are working around the clock to tackle the current levels we are seeing.

"The arrival of the Dragon Patcher in Suffolk will help bolster our efforts in getting these defects repaired, especially focusing on rural roads where we can repair higher numbers, in a fraction of the time.

"This new piece of kit is one way in which our new highways contract strives to provide better value for Suffolk's taxpayers and works to reduce impact on the environment."

Once the trial ends in Suffolk, a decision will be taken on whether to roll out the technology across the county.

Councils' loft insulation offer for Suffolk homes

Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders have launched a Suffolk Loft Insulation offer, teaming up with builders' merchant Travis Perkins to offer Suffolk residents a significant reduction on loft insulation.

There are four product options available, and residents will receive a 50% discount off their purchase (up to £200), with free delivery.

According to The Energy Saving Trust, it is estimated that an uninsulated home loses a quarter of its heat through its roof. An effective way to reduce this heat loss, and heating bills, is to insulate your loft, attic or flat roof. Correctly installed insulation should pay for itself many times over in its 40-year lifetime.

Andrew Hunt, Account Manager at Travis Perkins has said:

“Travis Perkins is thrilled to be working with Suffolk’s councils to offer this fantastic support for Suffolk residents. With energy prices still high and an ambition to reduce Suffolk’s carbon emissions, we’re delighted to offer a discount which will benefit and reach many.”

The offer is open to anyone and will close once the allocated funding has been spent. To find out more visit www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/grants/. Simply fill out the [online order form](#) and Travis Perkins will be in touch to arrange payment and delivery.

The Loft Insulation Grant is being funded by Suffolk’s Public Sector Leaders and Travis Perkins and will help contribute to Suffolk’s Climate Emergency Plan and our vision for Suffolk to become Carbon Neutral by 2030.

Have your say on Suffolk’s local transport plan

Residents are invited to share their views on how they travel to help inform Suffolk’s Local Transport Plan.

The plan sets out a long-term vision for transport in Suffolk and covers key themes such as decarbonisation of transport, strengthening the local economy, promoting health, wellbeing and social inclusion, and creating better-connected places that encourage a range of transport choices.

Suffolk County Council is asking for feedback on the key themes proposed for the fourth version of the plan, which will cover the period until 2040 and respond to long-term transport opportunities and challenges facing Suffolk and the UK as a whole.

A link to the survey can be found at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/ltp4>. The consultation will run for eight weeks until 8 April 2024.

Feedback from the consultation will be collated and inform the production of the draft local transport plan. The full draft document will then be subject to further consultation later in the year.

Cllr Richard Smith MVO, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Skills, Transport Strategy and Waste, said:

“A lot has changed since we wrote our last Local Transport Plan. Many people’s travel habits have changed permanently since the pandemic and so it is important that we hear from residents to take this into account.

“This consultation has been designed to seek your feedback at an early stage and to help us to develop a transport plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of as much of the local community as possible.”

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 or directly to the Team on 01282 7578178

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, please 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.

Cllr. Colin Noble

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