

Full BPC APM Chair Report 2023-2024

Meetings:

We have had 6 meetings during the year with at least 6 of the 7 Cllrs in attendance at each.

Finances:

Careful budgeting has meant the BPC finances remain healthy and we are able to meet all the legal requirements required by an independent audit by SALC.

We are aware of our duty to use the public money given to us through the annual precept wisely.

Support from Key Partners:

Andrew Reid, County Cllr, has continued to support us with the ever-increasing challenges faced by Highways issues including the long-standing concerns over the safety of the A1152 which, to date, remain unresolved, a serious pothole problem (now resolved) unscheduled and unco-ordinated road closures causing huge problems for local traffic.

His financial contribution toward the Sutton Road signage improvements was most welcome.

Andrew also finally got Highways to replace the rusted road sign on the triangle in the centre of the village after 18 months of waiting (Tim Johnson's repair certainly stood the test of time!)

James Mallinder Our District Cllr for Deben Ward: has supported us in the following:

- clearing footpath Sutton Rd
- engaged in maintaining momentum for improving water quality of R Deben
- ongoing support for local communities to set up projects providing support for villagers who are isolated or in financial need eg. meet up Mondays. Rural Coffee Van which has wide range info.
- advising us of the Suffolk in Bloom initiative
- pledging support for renovations to the Bromeswell Bus Shelter
- advice and guidance on planning and enforcement issues

Suffolk Wildlife Trust continue to successfully manage Bromeswell Green which is flourishing with the help and expertise of the Trust and its volunteers.

We have regular reports from Andrew Reid, James Mallinder, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, and Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB.

Their information and support is valued. Thank you to all of you.

Planning:

(a) Planning applications

BPC responded to 12 Planning Applications following, as we must, local planning regulations and guidelines. The local Planning Department have the final say.

8 Approved by Planning Dept.

4 still awaiting a result.

(b) Planning Enforcement issues

There were 5 such issues, 3 have been resolved and we are still awaiting a response regarding the remaining 2

The concerns raised include the probable unauthorised use of land for a jetty on the R Deben,

holiday rentals in the village not having the correct permissions, and the appearance of unauthorised storage units

Consultations, Surveys, Conferences and Other Communications

BPC completed surveys on behalf of the Parish, and where it was necessary for Parishioners themselves to have a say, the link to the relevant consultation was sent out via the eWarbler as well as being displayed on both parish noticeboards

1. Community Benefits for Electricity Transmission Network Infrastructure Consultation

In order to achieve net zero carbon emissions, there is a need to increase the infrastructure to facilitate this i.e. power stations, wind farms, solar panels, over and underground cabling. The survey was to gauge thoughts on whether or not communities willing to host these infrastructures should receive direct benefits

2. Draft Healthy Environments and Draft Rural Development Supplementary Planning Documents:

The draft Healthy Environments SPD provides guidance on matters related to the planning and design of active travel infrastructure (cycling and walking routes and cycle parking), green infrastructure (green open spaces, play provision, biodiversity, trees and landscaping), homes, schools, workplaces, community facilities and retail centres. The aim of the guidance is to support healthier, active lifestyles and improve the quality of environments for health and wellbeing and greater inclusivity.

The draft Rural Development SPD provides guidance on matters related to development in rural areas , including rural worker dwellings, annexes, residential curtilage expansion, building and barn conversions, economic development, equestrian development, tourism accommodation, small scale renewable energy generation and wastewater management

3. Review of parliamentary polling districts: no changes needed for Bromeswell

4. Library Services Survey for Suffolk residents to complete to help shape the future of library services

5. Suffolk Constabulary Survey to gauge support for an increase in the Policing Precept

6. Active Travel Woodbridge Consultation on proposed major changes to road network in Woodbridge in order to make better provision for cyclists and pedestrians.

Concerns were raised by BPC as to the limitations of the consultations, and the effect road closures would make by limiting access to A12 thereby displacing current traffic problems to somewhere else in the town.

7. Domestic loft insulation offer for Suffolk residents to receive 50% off

8. Travel behaviour survey (use of cars, buses etc for business, shopping , pleasure etc)

9. SALC Conference November 2023 included presentations from Milestone Infrastructure who are partnering with SCC "to provide safer highways for all users of the county network"

10. ESC Planning Meeting Forum January 2024. This covered a wide range of topics including validation requirements for Planning Applications, Pre-application Planning Advisory Service, biodiversity net gain, Levelling up and Regeneration Act and much more

11. Suffolk Devolution On-line forum February 2024 followed by a public consultation to gauge support for this proposal: Consultation ends 26 May 2024.

Suffolk County Council and the Government have signed a proposed, in principle, devolution deal to transfer certain powers and funding from the Government to Suffolk meaning that more decisions about Suffolk's future would be made in Suffolk rather than nationally.

This would include greater local control of funding in areas such as adult education, regeneration and transport - e.g. helping young people have access to free bus services, more supported housing for those with mental health issues and learning disabilities, access to courses for adults earning below the minimum wage to improve their skills set, increased access to course for those who have English as their second language, and control of a new investment fund worth £480 million over the next thirty years. (NB this is NOT index-linked)

Joint Initiatives - engaging with other communities

1. Letter in support of local Parishes asking Andrew Bowie, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Dept for Energy Security and Net Zero, to commit to engaging more widely with communities potentially affected by the proposed National Grid Infrastructures

2. Joint Parish Traffic Initiative (JPTI): Working in collaboration with neighbouring communities to tackle safety concerns and traffic volume issues on the A1152

3. Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Community Partnership - This group focuses on addressing concerns along the A1152 whilst providing guidance and support for various other local community issues.

4. Deben Peninsular joint meetings: Similar to the above above, these meetings concentrate on localised problems within the Deben Peninsula area.

5. 20s Plenty for Suffolk Campaign

We endorsed this campaign, advocating for the implementation of 20mph zones where beneficial, as had been the case in Bromeswell village centre.

6. Melton PC:

We supported the extension of the 30mph speed limit along Wilford Bridge Road which has been approved.

7. AONB Working Party Project requested projects that they would consider carrying out.

We submitted a proposal to extend a permissive path at WRUFC alongside pitch 3 for the safety of horse riders, dog walkers and ramblers.

We are awaiting a response.

Other projects;

1. Residents were surveyed to their gauge interest setting up a Committee for village social events. Questionnaires were hand delivered, and information put in a Warbler article.. Potential initiatives like Meet up Mondays and Rural Coffee van were discussed. The PC to provide advice to such a committee but not be a part of it.

2. The Community Emergency Plan (CEP) was updated following the hand-delivery of surveys to identify vulnerable residents ,and emergency resources e.g. chain saws.
3. Continued communication with County Broadband; the financial trigger target has been reached but there has been no further progress to date.
4. Suffolk in Bloom: 500 bulbs were planted with thanks to councillors, and volunteers, and to James Mallinder for his support of this project
5. Website Cookies: Thanks to a resident contacting Suffolk One there is now the option to disable cookies on the BPC website
6. D-Day Anniversary: June 6, 2024, marks the 80th anniversary. Any related village social events will be advertised in The Warbler closer to the date.
7. Village Litter Pick: BPC has purchased additional litter-pickers and hi-viz vests due to low stock at ESC. who normally loan us is equipment.

Thank yous:

1. Thank you to our County Cllr Andrew Reid for his support (including financial) and guidance in particular for the significant ongoing local highways issues, as well as his far-reaching wider County Council rôle, and to our District Cllr, James Mallinder for his unwavering support over a wide range of issues including enforcement, planning, aid with setting up local projects for the benefit of others, and for being so accessible and willing to respond to any type of query.
2. Thank you to all the villagers who provide a necessary input to the PC so that we know how best to serve you. We value your ongoing support
3. Thank you to the Editors of The Warbler for your much appreciated rôle of distributing valuable essential information from the PC to villagers both in the monthly publication of The Warbler, and outside of that.
4. Finally, but certainly not least, thank you very much to the great team of our Clerk and the other Cllrs. You work together well and are good at taking on and sorting a wide range of tasks which makes my job so much easier.

You will see from this report the wide range of challenges, initiatives, alongside routine work that has been carried out on behalf of those living in Bromeswell. This has only been achievable by co-operation and diligence of all involved.

Thank you for making my job do-able

It remains a privilege and a pleasure to work alongside you all

Verity Brown. Chair.