



September 2022 Row Heath Parish Report

From Councillor Colin Noble, County Councillor for Row Heath

HM Government **NHS**

Let's keep life moving.

FRESH AIR TESTING FACE COVERINGS APP HANDWASHING

gov.uk/coronavirus

The past month has seen the sad passing of Her Majesty the Queen, I think for all of us it was a shock and then a time to reflect and say thank you for a lifetime of service to us all. During the national period of mourning, perhaps each of us took time to remember those lost in our own families, as well as our deepest sympathies for the Royal Family. I watched the proclamation of the New King alongside fellow County Councillors in Ipswich where at its close we patriotically stated, 'God Save the King' and then sang the new National Anthem for the very first time, a very strange feeling.

Almost lost in this time was the arrival of Liz Truss as our new prime Minister and the steady announcement of new Ministers and policies. Most welcome has been the price cap on energy bills, this will not help everyone, but it will help the most vulnerable in our communities as energy prices continue to soar. Russia mistakenly believes that the west will not continue to support Ukraine as energy prices rise. This is precisely why there is now support in place to cushion these 'war-time' rising costs as the world deals with this Murderous Dictator who can't get his way in Ukraine.

Sadly, the pandemic has not entirely gone away, and as winter approaches please do have the booster vaccine when offered and if eligible get the flu jab as well. I have now had both and it's important to step up when invited to do so. If you are over 50 and don't get a text or letter, contact your GP.

Over the next few pages, I report some of what's been happening in Suffolk over the past month and provide info I hope you find useful. Anything I can help with, just let me know.

Colin

Windows now open to apply for primary and secondary school places

Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2023.

The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school is Monday 31 October 2022.

The deadline for applying for a primary school place, including infant and junior schools, is Sunday 15 January 2023.

All applications received by the relevant closing date are processed at the same time using the schools' oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications when necessary. Late applications are processed after all of those received on time.

Last year, Suffolk County Council received just under 15,400 applications from parents and carers indicating at which school they would prefer their child to be educated from September 2022.

Just over 95% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and almost 99% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools.

Before making a school application, parents and carers need to consider how they will get their child to and from school. School Travel eligibility is based on a child attending the nearest suitable school that would have had a place available. This might not be the catchment area school. To find out more about SCC's school travel policy please visit www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

It's important to also check the nearest School Checker because this might not be their catchment area school.

This can be found at <http://nearestschool.suffolk.gov.uk/>."

Parents and carers should apply online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions as they will receive confirmation that we have received their application. If for any reason parents and carers are unable to apply online they should apply on a paper application (CAF1). Suffolk County Council is unable to acknowledge receipt of paper applications and therefore suggest that proof of posting is obtained.

If families are planning to move house or think their circumstances may change before next September, it is still important to make an application on time. Advice and guidance about this process is available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions.

Families who apply online will be able to log on to the Online Service on the National Offer Day, which is Wednesday 1 March 2023 for secondary school places and Monday 17 April 2023 for primary school places, to see their offer of a school place, and they will receive an email to confirm this offer on the same day. Offer letters will be sent by second class post to applicants who made a paper application.

Information to help parents and carers make their application is available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions.

Great Big Green Week in Suffolk: Creating the Greenest County

Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature, and Suffolk is playing its part.

Created by national charity [The Climate Coalition](#), thousands of people across the UK are encouraged to take part in environmental action between 24 September and 2 October. Last year more than 200,000 people took part in their community and online, and this year is expected to be even bigger and better.

To celebrate Great Big Green Week, we wanted to shine a spotlight on some of the fantastic organisations that are helping to make Suffolk the greenest county, to protect the environment and the habitat of local wildlife.

Every Suffolk resident has a responsibility to tackle climate change, it's not something that one organisation or authority can achieve on its own. Which is why our Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan is so important, as we work towards our ambition of a Net Zero Suffolk by 2030.

These organisations and individuals are truly inspiring, and I hope by reading their stories you too will be inspired to take positive action to reduce your carbon emissions and protect your local environment.

Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership rolls out ANPR devices to target speeding motorists

Speeding motorists are to be targeted with a mobile number plate recognition system to be rolled out across Suffolk.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) will be rotated around sites where there is a problem with speeding or rat-running on roads with a 20 or 30mph speed limit.

The devices, 10 in total, will display the speeds of drivers to them as they approach, encouraging them to slow down.

If they continue to ignore the speed limit the ANPR camera will take a picture of them and record the date, time, speed, vehicle registration and a photo of the vehicle.

In certain cases, persistent offenders will be reported to Suffolk Constabulary and, while no one will be prosecuted as a direct result of the devices, they may be visited by a police officer who will speak to them about their driving.

The information shared with the police may also influence the deployment of speed enforcement vans to problem areas.

This project is part of the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership between Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Constabulary.

Suffolk County Council provided £400,000 from the 2020 Fund to support a two-year trial.

A grant of £30,000 has also been awarded by the Road Safety Trust to evaluate the project and establish whether the camera scheme is effective in reducing speeding.

Speeding traffic is a danger to everyone and a blight on the community it passes through.

This scheme tackles this problem by reminding drivers that they need to slow down - and if they don't, they can expect to be contacted and told their driving is unacceptable.

If it makes motorists reflect on how fast they drive and understand the need to slow down then it has done its job.

Alzheimer's Awareness Month – now is the time to learn more about dementia and what support is available

World Alzheimer's Day was held last week, on 21 September, as part of World Alzheimer's Month.

This year the theme is around the power of knowledge, encouraging people to do what they can to learn more about dementia and understand the changes in memory and behaviour, so people feel equipped and able to identify when and where they may go for help and support.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, Alzheimer's is a progressive disease. This means that gradually, over time, more parts of the brain are damaged. As this happens, more symptoms develop, and they also get worse.

According to the Alzheimer Society, more than 520,000 people in the UK have dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease and this figure is set to rise.

Sadly, the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, combined with the stigma of dementia and the common misconception around memory loss being just part of getting old, means that dementia diagnosis rates are currently at a five-year low across the UK, which sadly means that tens of thousands of people across the country are currently living with undiagnosed dementia.

This means they don't have access to the vital care and support that a diagnosis can bring and could risk ending up in crisis before making plans with their family and friends.

Typical early symptoms of Alzheimer's may include memory problems like regularly forgetting recent events, people's names, or familiar faces. Becoming increasingly repetitive, asking the same question multiple times.

Regularly misplacing items or putting them in odd or unusual places. Confusion about the date or losing track of the time of day. People with the onset of dementia might also develop problems communicating or finding the right words.

If you recognise some of these symptoms, either in yourself or in a close friend or family member, book a visit with a GP as soon as possible. Whilst getting a diagnosis can be daunting all the evidence suggests it's better to know.

Earlier this year, as part of Dementia Action Week, Alzheimer's Society created and launched a new online symptoms checklist that can be printed off and taken with you to a GP appointment, to help talk about changes that might be due to dementia.

Unlocking early support is vital, as it opens a range of both practical and emotional support. This support can include people gaining access to the latest information and research, so they can know more about the disease and how it develops, access counselling and emotional wellbeing support, and potentially benefit from drug and non-drug treatments available to help manage the disease as it develops.

It also allows them the opportunity to explain to family and friends the changes happening in their life. You can find out more information about their symptom checklist, along with a wealth of information and a range of help sheets about everything from what support exists for individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's, support for carers of people with dementia, and the various treatment options which can be considered for people who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's on [the Alzheimer's Society website](#).

Don't dismiss the little symptoms you or your family may have noticed, it's not necessarily part of getting old – it might be part of getting ill.

Within Suffolk, anyone who needs help, advice and support for themselves or others pre or post a diagnosis of dementia, can contact the Alzheimer's Society via their Dementia Connect (Telephone **0333 150 3456** or email suffolk@alzheimers.org.uk).

Within Waveney, Alzheimer's Society provide a Dementia Support Service (Telephone **01603 763556** or email norfolk@alzheimers.org.uk).

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

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.

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