

County Councillor's end of Four Year Report

I am proud to be part of an Administration that has led Suffolk County Council for the last four years we have ensured that vital services have been retained and kept tax as low as possible.

We have lived up to the pledge of freezing Council tax since the last election, meaning that the residents of Suffolk are not paying a penny more than they did in 2010. That's a 7- year freeze! We are committed to running a low-tax county council and maintaining services by being more effective and efficient with our resources rather than making the residents pay more.

In 2016 Suffolk County renewed more than 300 miles of roads across the county after an investment of an additional £10 million. We implemented an online reporting system for potholes which has seen over 70% of customers move online where they can receive updates on works, greatly decreasing the response time.

Caring for Suffolk's elderly and vulnerable residents has remained one of our highest priorities. With an aging population, we have supported residents to live active and fulfilling lives. To honour our commitment to adult social care, this administration has taken all opportunities presented to it to invest in front line services, for two consecutive years (2016/17 & 2017/18) we introduced the adult social care precept at 2% and 3% respectively. This money is ring-fenced and goes directly to front line services. In the 2017/18 budget this will be investing £12.3m in full to front line services and to those hardworking people who care for our elderly population. We will target this money into the care sector to provide a sustainability and safe, high quality care.

Since the last election in May 2013 Suffolk Schools have gone from 60% 'Good' or 'Outstanding' rating by OFSTED to an amazing 90%. This means that 9/10 children in Suffolk now have access to the highest standards of education thanks to the tireless work of teamwork and staff working together. We are now ranked in the top half of all authorities in the country for GCSE results.

We have been dedicated to keeping the residents of Suffolk healthy. We have established sporting events across the county, which have inspired thousands of people, including "Park Runs", almost 150 walks, the Women's Tour of Britain and the inaugural Great East Run. We continue to work closely with the NHS Mental Health Trust and with other services and charities to help support the most fragile.

Over the past four years we have managed to work with partners to secure millions of pounds of improvement to the rail network, with brand new rolling stock and reduced journey times under the new rail franchise with Greater Anglia. Our continued investment in community transport through our Connecting Communities scheme has extended services in rural areas.

Suffolk is a beautiful county of rich green countryside and breath-taking coastlines and we have tried to protect our county's environment. We have invested in our historic market

towns and the re-generation of Ipswich waterfront. The county's energy from waste plant has enabled us to save money on landfill tax, generate electricity and earn income. The plant was built to budget and on time. It takes all Suffolk's domestic waste for incineration and powers 30,000 homes. As a result, waste going into landfill in Suffolk has been cut from 44% to just 1%!

Personal

Well you are all aware by now that I stood down from being your County Councillor after 12 years. Wow - 12 years! I was just wondering where that time has gone, that is until I started deleting emails: three thousand and I thought I had kept them down! Thanks for your support during that time and I hope you felt I supported you. That doesn't mean just getting you money through Locality Grants either 😊 That's a Smiley in case someone doesn't know who is reading this out.

Most Active County

I am pleased that I have been Member with responsibility for Most Active County.

This has suited me because this is an area I am covering already. I have been a Board Member for Suffolk Sport since 1995 in fact was the first Chairman and was responsible for pulling a Board together. From early days I have always believed that Health is important. So glad that Sport England has made that a directive, it has only taken twenty years. I am also a Trustee of Abbeycroft and if you didn't know it they cover most of Suffolk now. I would like to add I made sure Elspeth Gibson Deputy lead for Health at County was put onto Suffolk Sport and Sally Hogg Health onto Abbeycroft Board.

One of my real pleasures was recently going to Skyliner Way as Deputy Mayor to see a brilliant coaching session by Olympian Anthony Clark, Coach of Suffolk Saxons

So I am glad that I am able to promote/support all activities, whether it is Fit Villages, Nordic Walking, Dancing, Walking Football and Walking Netball or Boccia and treasure hunt walks for children in Suffolk. There is also the hugely successful Park Runs, some of us Councillors put Locality Money into Junior Park Runs because we believe in it. You have got to say Suffolk is Active.

We do need to promote activity because it is good for us both physically and mentally plus it is a fact we are living longer so we need to make the most of it by staying active longer.

Staying with health I am pleased to have had success in the mental health area. I have been an observer at the West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group. This gave me the opportunity to ask "what are you going to do about sorting out pathways of support, because if I can't find them as a Councillor how does the Man/Woman in the street get support". This resulted in a paper going to their last meeting and I was credited with asking for it. I have since had a meeting with Officers showing me proposals in how they are moving forward. So hopefully I have had some recent success.

Terry Clements