

January 2018 report for Hawstead Parish Council.

Local issues

Locality Budget. No response from Hawstead as yet.

Borough

Suffolk MP Jo Churchill calls for councils to be given major shake-up. With Suffolk's councils facing more tough years of austerity, Bury St Edmunds MP Jo Churchill has called for a major debate on the future of local government in the county.

The first two priorities of the Bury St Edmunds masterplan have been announced after the final version was officially adopted by councillors.

Best Before shop gets cash to expand in 2018. A community project aiming to reduce food waste and save families money, hopes to expand in the new year, with the backing of Borough Councillor Julia Wakelam.

The St Edmundsbury Borough Council Constitution has now been updated to reflect the creation of a SEBC Portfolio holder for Future Governance.

Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board. A government inspired course (I attended) to make aware of the signs the vulnerable to radicalisation or influenced by extremism. More information available if required.

West Suffolk Hub. The Secretary of State decided not to call in the application, therefore allowing SEBC to grant planning permission. Costs have increased significantly, but the stage is set for the project to proceed.

The Government's new national planning fee regulations are to be introduced this month across the Country. Like other councils across the UK, West Suffolk is following these new regulations by raising planning application fees by 20% from 17th January, 2018. This applies to all applications received from 17th January. The increase in fees will be reinvested to support improvements in our planning services to support our growth ambitions.

Bury St Edmunds is braced for third major set of road works. Work to enhance the area around Northgate roundabout is due to start on January 22 and last for 16 weeks.

Bury's winter night shelter has been overwhelmed with donations. The response is "truly fantastic". Cllr Sara Mildmay-White is quoted.

West Suffolk councils are taking the first steps to adopting new powers to tackle rogue landlords. It follows a decision at a joint cabinet meeting of St Edmundsbury Borough and Forest Heath District Council at which councillors agreed to begin consultation on new enforcement routes.

West Suffolk Electoral Review - local considerations. If Parliament approves the proposal for a new council for West Suffolk, a new set of wards will need to be created before first elections in 2019. This review will be carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The scope of the LGBCE review will be the ward boundaries for the new council. The existing parishes will form the building blocks for the review and their external boundaries will not be changed. There will be a formal public consultation by LGBCE on the proposals for new boundaries in the summer. In advance of this process, we are seeking the informal input of county, district, borough and parish councillors and community groups, on behalf of their communities, on the local considerations that should be taken into account when West Suffolk Councils are drafting their own initial proposals. This is your opportunity to let us know about those considerations. When we have more clarity on how many electors are likely to be in each ward, we will consult you again on options and preferences for how specific parishes might be grouped together and/or divided up to form district-level wards. Follow the link to complete the survey

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/electoralreview

Mike Chester

Borough Councillor -Hawstead, Whepstead, Rede, Chedburgh and Chevington

