WEST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLOR SUSAN GLOSSOP

RISBY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual report 2021

Committees on which I serve

Development control
Cabinet ; member for Economic growth

Outside bodies

Newmarket BID
Bury and Beyond Destination Management Organisation
West Stow Anglo Saxon Village Trust
East West Rail Consortium growth
One Haverhill Partnership Board

100% Attendance record for Council meetings all meetings were on Zoom or Teams.

Locality budget spend from April 2020– April 2021

Culford Community	rewilding scheme	£250.00
West Stow St Marys Community facility driveway		£1,765
Ingham play facility fencing and signage £800.00		£800
Lackford Sailing club seating and fencing and special seating for the disabled		£484.20

Planning Applications

On a much smaller scale, but possibly of more importance to residents of Risby several individual planning applications have been made. The majority of the applications have been approved enabling people to build extensions or make alterations to their property. Not all applications go smoothly however, and I would strongly advise people wanting to put in an application to talk to the Parish Council who make comments pertinent to each application. It is worth having some pre-application advice from Planning Officers. I am also readily available to discuss any individual plans with anyone in the village and I frequently act as a go-between between resident and Planning Officer to try to resolve any problems on an informal basis.

Garden Waste Collection

The cost of a brown bin £43 per year with no increase for 2022

link for signing up on line: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Town Centre

Work has continued on the plans with a £8.4 million scheme to redevelop the Post office building with the redevelopment providing retaining the historic Victorian façade and the rear of the building developed into retail with 12 apartments above and the link between marketplace and the Arc being widened with new shop fronts onto St Andrews Street. This work is due for completion in 2022.

Opening up of town centres

We will be putting extra resource between now and 21 June when further restrictions are due to be lifted, to clean and tidy our town centres to ensure they are attractive and safe, and ready for more visitors to enjoy. We are also looking to support planting proposals and to firm up details with relevant partners as soon as receive the specific government guidance. As ever we will also continue to encourage communities "to love where they live" and to help look after their respective local areas.

Alongside this we are continuing to look at how we, working with partners and local landlords, can help to bring empty shops back into use by providing opportunities to new start-up businesses. We are also working with our town centre partners to help make available tables and chairs that may be used by restaurants, cafes and pubs to assist them in opening and serving customers outside. This is already being taken up in Brandon and Bury St Edmunds.

We are of course continuing to support the safe reopening of businesses through business grants (more on our website at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/c19business).

Government Restart Grant

The Government grant schemes are now moving from the restrictions phase into the recovery phase.

We have made £8.5m in automatic payments to West Suffolk businesses that have previously applied for the Government's Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) and are now eligible for the Government's Restart Grant. These are one off grants for businesses in the ratings system in non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses. Businesses previously not in receipt of LRSG can apply for the Government's Restart grant at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/c19business

Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Restart Grants

We have also paid out close to £1.7m in discretionary funding through automatic payments to more than 600 West Suffolk businesses through the schemes set out below.

We are mirroring the Government restart grants and making one off automatic payments to previous recipients of (ARG) with fixed business property costs. These include market traders and businesses in shared premises where they are not the rate payer. We are also paying this grant to supply chain businesses in retail, hospitality, leisure and tourism who have previously received ARG.

While the above helps businesses not in the ratings system who had to close during restrictions, we also recognise that businesses in the above categories that were allowed to open (such as market traders selling essential goods) have demonstrated that they have also been significantly impacted as a result of the national restrictions and consumer behavioural changes. For this reason, those that have previously received the ARG open grant will also receive an automatic payment based on 70 per cent of the ARG closed Restart scheme.

New applicants for both schemes can apply via our website before 3 May 2021 at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/c19business

Finally, we are continuing to support home and mobile businesses as restrictions lift and businesses open. We will be making another automatic payment to Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) recipients in these categories.

Community support

For those offering help in their community or needing help from the community more can be found at https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/c19community

For Community Groups offering help and those who are vulnerable needing help there is now a countywide service.

The free app, called Tribe Volunteer, can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. The telephone number for anyone that is vulnerable, at home and with no other support from family or friends available to them is freephone **0800 876 6926** and will be staffed
from 9am to 5pm, seven days a week but should only be used for the most vulnerable in need of genuine help.

Anyone that is vulnerable, at home and with no other support from family or friends available to them

If you have any further queries please contact your Families and Communities officer or email families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk

More information

We constantly update our website at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus and our social media. Please have a look or follow our social media for updates which has been incredibly popular.

Issues raised by the Community

Many of the issues have been highway issues which the Suffolk County Councillor addresses. There has been much concern about the speeding of the traffic and the very large lorries using the road through the villages on the
Fly tipping
Speeding traffic through the villages
Rural bus service
Maintenance of public rights of way
Dog fouling
Flooding has been a big issue

Contact details for your District Councillor

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