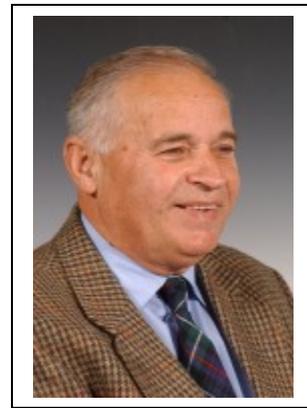


# Parish Report February 2017

## Councillor

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## Five Nominations for Suffolk County Council at 2017 LGC Awards

Suffolk County Council is up for four national awards at a glittering ceremony in London next year.

The County Council has received five nominations in four categories at the LGC Awards, which take place in Grosvenor House on March 8 2017. The awards are an annual event, which showcase the work of council staff who help their communities in new and innovative ways in times of uncertainty.

The council has received two nominations in the Children's Services category, which aims to recognise councils that adopt a strategic approach to the vital service area, and is also in the running for Partnership of the Year, which demonstrates councils working with other organisations to bring about service improvements and/or improved efficiency and Digital Council of the Year – which will go to the council that can show how it has transformed systematically its approach to technology to improve outcomes for residents and facilitate better collaboration between partner organisations.

The organisation has also received a nomination in the new Rising Star category – which aims to highlight local government's exceptional young officers and professionals who are currently not in corporate management team roles.

Suffolk County Council's nominations are:

- Suffolk's 'Twos Count Here' Project (quality early learning for two-year-olds) – Children's Services
- Signs of Safety and Wellbeing in Suffolk – a whole system implementation – Children's Services
- Suffolk's Most Active County Partnership – Partnership of the Year
- Leading Change by Digital Customer Experience – Digital Council of the Year
- Matt Woor – Rising Star

## Suffolk celebrates one year of 'ChatHealth' service

Suffolk's School Nursing Team has been celebrating one year of 'ChatHealth', the School Nurse Text Messaging Service.

'ChatHealth' was introduced with the aim of allowing more people to access the School Nursing service as well as improving the efficiency of the service, to aid early intervention. Young people in Suffolk can send messages to a dedicated number which delivers to a secure website.

**Texts are responded to within one working day.**

**The service is available Monday to Friday 9am - 4.30pm excluding bank holidays**

Outside of these hours anyone who texts the service receives an automated message with advice on where to get help if their question is urgent.

School nurses can support children and young people with enquiries relating to a wide range of health and wellbeing issues including self-harm, bullying, drug and alcohol use, smoking, healthy eating, sexual health and mental health. The service has been used equally by parents and young people, with the majority of young people wishing to remain anonymous.

To contact the School Nursing Service via 'ChatHealth' **text 07507 333356**

## **Labelling on 'healthy' snack foods found to be unsatisfactory by Suffolk Trading Standards**

As mandatory labelling comes into force this month, Suffolk Trading Standards have tested 'healthy' snack foods for sugar content – with surprising results.

Suffolk Trading Standards officers sent 15 snack foods, which were marketed in the 'healthier snacks' category for testing. The samples, some of which are specifically aimed to children, were checked against what was declared and whether they complied with labelling regulations.

Almost half of the samples were found to contain more sugar than declared on the label and one sample contained 89% more sugar than declared. All 15 samples were found to be unsatisfactory due to labelling.

Following the tests, the results were sent to the manufacturers and a repeat test will take place at a later date. When correct, the accuracy of labels will enable consumers to make informed choices when purchasing food, especially for children.

If you would like to stay up to date with the work of Suffolk Trading Standards, you can sign up to receive their weekly email alert at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight)

## **Suffolk's Hands off your mobile campaign hits the road as traffic signs display our message**

Our road safety campaign message could not have been made much clearer to drivers, as highways chiefs signalled their support in no uncertain terms.

Electronic traffic signs lit up in Ipswich with a 'Hands Off!' warning to any motorists tempted to use their mobile phones behind the wheel. By joining the official campaign Facebook page, more than 1,500 people have made a their own visible commitment to never use a hand-held phone or similar device while driving or riding a motorcycle.

Culprits can soon expect to face much tougher punishment for breaking the law – with the government announcing in September that penalties will double to six points and a £200 fine this spring.

The Hands Off campaign was launched following number of serious and fatal road crashes which happened as a result of a driver being distracted by their mobile phone. Since the campaign's Facebook page went live on Monday, hundreds of users have taken to the social media site to show their support.

The council was hoping to link its message with matrix boards controlled by Highways England on the A12 and A14 trunk roads, to ensure as many motorists as possible know about the campaign. Facebook users endorsed the idea, with some going further by denouncing any distraction as a possible hazard, including eating and smoking, and others arguing that penalties for using mobile devices should be even harsher than the Department for Transport put forward in autumn.

You can make the Hands Off pledge by visiting the dedicated Facebook page at [facebook.com/handsoffyourphone](https://facebook.com/handsoffyourphone).

The page now includes footage of drivers being pulled over by police for ignoring the law. The video comes with a plea for road users to put their phones out of sight and use a hands-free kit.