

# Parish Report November 2013

## Councillor

Richard Kemp

Tresco  
New Road  
Long Melford  
Suffolk  
CO10 9JY  
01787 378149  
[richard.kemp@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:richard.kemp@suffolk.gov.uk)



### Heavy Rain and Road Floods

Last Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>, just after a torrential downpour I had to drive to Bury St Edmunds, there were large sections of the road flooded, it seems as the drains could not cope or the ditches are blocked. On the Monday following I dealt with several calls in respect of the problem. My own view is that large flooding problems on the road are starting to increase not only due to heavy downpours, but due to the fact that so many outlets in the form of ditches, have either gone, have not been cleaned out or have inadequate piping systems. I think the time has come for the Government to restore the Grants that were once in place to ensure that our ditch systems are properly maintained. I suspect that in cost terms an Annual Grant say through DEFRA, would be come out much cheaper than the present situation of trying to deal with problems that have concluded. Tinkering with the problem is not the way forward !

### Dog Fouling – Bag it and Bin it!

There are lot of repeated problems that arise at Parish Meetings that I attend, the three common problems are Speed of motor vehicles through villages, Problem Parking in particular outside Schools, and the number one at the moment is the problem of dog fouling. I attended a meeting the other day where this matter came up in conjunction with Badgers and TB and the current cull. A representative from the NFU mentioned the growing problem of dog faeces left on farmland and the transfer of disease to livestock. Apparently it is a growing problem, so I suppose the answer should be that wherever our dogs go to the toilet the best practice is to 'Bag it and Bin it'!

### Greater Anglia Draft Cycling Strategy

Although aware of the fact that the consultation was taking place (by way of GA's website), I only first saw this printed edition towards the end of last week, albeit responses are required by 31<sup>st</sup> October. Whilst the County Council will be making a full response to this consultation, you or your parish/town councils may be interested in responding too.

You may be aware that Greater Anglia is currently consulting on a draft cycle strategy for their services. The rail company seems to be proposing to remove cycles from an unspecified number of their trains – up to and including all of them - preferring people to keep bicycles at each end of their daily journey or to use Greater Anglia's own version of Boris bikes at an extra cost of £3.80 a day. (If you haven't seen the document, pdf copy is available on request) Page 11 onwards deals with the situation of bicycles on Greater Anglia trains)

The details appear well-hidden online (and when you get to it, by the impreciseness of the language they are written in) but it seems that the impact could be very wide indeed. It would be felt by all cycle rail users, but most particularly those with fewer choices: those using the trains from stops in rural areas, second-class passengers, those with complex journeys, and of course the young and less affluent. As an example, a great many young people use the East Suffolk line with their BMX bikes, travelling independently to the skate/bike parks of Ipswich and Woodbridge. I suspect GA will not be providing Boris BMXes (and doubt whether many young people could afford them – or indeed use ones that were not their own if they did).

There is also concern that Suffolk travellers will be particularly at risk because it seems as if decisions are being proposed on the basis of the status and usage of out-of-county stations (London, Norwich, Cambridge) with little concern as to the situation of the passengers who have to join or leave the trains on the interim stops in Suffolk.

Greater Anglia cite considerations of space. Although there has clearly been a woeful lack of investment in rolling stock over recent decades, we are currently in a situation where it is second-class carriages – not first-class ones – that are very overcrowded in rush hour. This often occurs when there are no bikes in the carriages for example on the Norwich/London Intercity services which currently carry all non-folding bikes in the guard's van. We are therefore not convinced that Greater Anglia have been thinking very divergently when they look at the issue.

There have been conversations with other Suffolk rail/cycle travellers on regular travels by rail. People are anxious and many are making personal representations to the draft strategy. I understand that the Chief Executive of Willis was going to respond on behalf of the many of its 1200 workers who commute to Ipswich by rail and bike from different areas of Suffolk. Tessa Lingfield states she is already alerted and concerned from the public health view and is hoping for a corporate response from SCC.

If you or anyone you know is a keen cyclist, who values being able to take a bike onto trains in East Anglia, may I recommend you look at the above named document, give it a close read, and make your own response if you feel appropriate. Written responses should be sent by post or email to;

Cycle Strategy Responses, Greater Anglia, 11th floor, One Stratford Place, LONDON E20 1EJ  
[cyclestrategy@greateranglia.co.uk](mailto:cyclestrategy@greateranglia.co.uk) Please clearly mark all responses 'DRAFT CYCLE STRATEGY'

### **Successful Fly Tipping Prosecution**

The prosecution of a Sudbury man this week has resulted in him being ordered to carry out 80 hours of unpaid work and pay costs of £852.80 for fly-tipping a Transit van load of waste earlier this year.

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013, Bury St Edmunds Magistrates Court ordered Mark Anthony Collins, 49, of Raleigh Road, Sudbury, to carry out 80 hours of unpaid work as well as to pay the Council's costs (which includes the cost of clearing the waste) of £792.80, plus a victim surcharge of £60, after he pleaded guilty to dumping waste on land without an environmental permit. Babergh District Council attended Joes Road in Great Cornard on 11 January 2013, after a member of the public reported that a large amount of waste, including televisions, computer monitors, wooden furniture, plastic tubs, a number plate, fuel receipts and general waste had been dumped on the verge by a field gateway. The waste was cleared by the Council's Rapid Response service, who discovered some address labels, linking the plastic tubs with a care home in Sudbury.

Enquiries were made with the Manager at the Care home who identified that the tubs had been given to Mr Collins, who had called at the premises on three occasions in 2012 to ask for any metal waste, and who had specifically asked if he could also take the tubs. The Manager confirmed that Mr Collins had not provided them with a waste transfer note (as required by law) on removing the waste. Mr Collins attended an interview under caution at the Council Offices in February 2013. During the interview he admitted that he had called at the care home and removed waste, although he denied ever taking the plastic tubs and strongly denied dumping the waste in Joes Road. However, when shown the fuel receipts, which contained details of a Tesco Clubcard, he then made a full admission that he had dumped waste at Joes Road. Mr Collins explained that he had taken the waste from his lock-up unit in Raleigh Road the night before and drove it to the household Waste and Recycling Centre early the next morning, to find it was shut. He was running late so drove to Joes Road and dumped the waste there.

Whilst Mr Collins had been registered as a waste carrier when working with a previous business partner, his details were no longer correct. In addition Mr Collins was not registered as a scrap metal dealer with the Council. Taking into account his guilty plea and his limited means to pay a fine, the Magistrates' issued Mr Collins with an order to undertake 80 hours unpaid work, and to pay the Council £792.80 to meet the cost of removing and investigating the incident.

James Buckingham, Corporate Manager - Environmental Protection, said: "We are pleased with the result of this case, which acknowledges the cost incurred by taxpayers to clear fly-tipping. By flouting his legal obligations, Mr Collins was potentially undercutting legitimate waste operators as well as putting his customers at risk by not giving them the necessary paperwork to prove they had disposed of their waste properly. By dumping his waste in a rural location he has both blighted the countryside and cost Babergh taxpayers – and as such was seeking to benefit at the expense of others. It can be difficult to trace unlicensed operators such as Mr Collins and as such we are very pleased that the court has made an example of his behaviour, despite his limited means."

"Along with the other Suffolk Councils, Babergh is currently part of a national pilot project on reducing fly-tipping, which includes ensuring businesses and residents understand their legal 'duty of care' in respect to waste, checking waste carriers, and promoting enforcement and so I hope this case will act as a timely warning to other unlicensed operators as well as highlighting the need to ensure that anyone taking waste away is licensed to do so. There were 224 incidents of fly-tipping in the Babergh district in 2012/13 which cost over £13000 to clear, a costs met by the taxpayer. For this reason, the Council will not hesitate to take enforcement action when an offender can be identified." he added.

### **Ambulance Service Improvements given cautious welcome**

The East of England Ambulance Service has cut the average time it takes to hand patients over to two Suffolk hospitals and then return to standby positions. In four months from June to September 2013, the number of incidents in which it took longer than 30 minutes to transfer a patient from an ambulance to the care of a hospital was cut from 17.54% at the James Paget and 13.62% at West Suffolk Hospital to around just 2% at both. But average handover times at Ipswich Hospital have increased - from 4.28% to 11.13%.

The committee heard however how the hospital and ambulance service were working together to reduce handover times. Over the same time period, the percentage of occasions in which it took longer than 30 minutes for the ambulance crew to clear a hospital dropped from 36.96% to 16.81% at Ipswich Hospital and 26.54% to 8.66% at the James Paget. West Suffolk Hospital saw an increase from 18.58% to 27.87%.

Councillor Tony Goldson, chairman of Suffolk's Health Scrutiny Committee, welcomed the overall improvements but said that more needed to be done to get the region's ambulance service back to the level of service that people expect.

### **Closing Date for Secondary School Applications looms**

Parents and carers have until 31<sup>st</sup> October to submit their application to secure their child's place at a Suffolk Secondary School for September 2014. Suffolk County Council is urging parents and carers to make sure they get their application in by the closing date to give their children the best chance of securing a place at a preferred secondary school. Even if a family lives next door to a school they should not assume they will automatically get a place, everyone needs to submit an application. It is recommended that parents and carers include more than one school on their application form.

Councillor Lisa Chambers, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for education, skills and young people, said: "One of the most important decisions that any parent or carer makes on behalf of their child is choosing the right school for them.

Parents/ carers are encouraged to apply online or in writing by posting their application form to the address on the back of the form. If there is demand for more places at a school than there are places available, then who gets a place will be decided according to the agreed oversubscription criteria for the school.

For more information about applying for a school place and school oversubscription criteria, people should visit: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissionstoschools](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissionstoschools)