

## Parish Report September 2012

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### Highways Outsourcing – Five Bidders announced

S.C.C.'s plan to outsource its highways services is continuing with the announcement that five bidders have made it through to the next stage.

The company that eventually wins the contract when it is discussed at Cabinet on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December will be responsible for gritting, maintenance and repairing potholes. The five companies that have been successful include;

- Amey
- Balfour Beatty Workplace
- Carillion/Mott Macdonald
- Enterprise Mouchel
- MGWSP (May Gurney/WSP)

The administration believe that this will be a cost cutting measure, as they originally claimed that they would save £2m per annum, this however has now increased to £4.5m per annum. In order to ensure value for money and a high quality of roads, I believe that S.C.C must have stringent contract management in place, and effective scrutiny of the arrangement, otherwise there is danger of us paying too much for poor quality roads.

I will keep you updated on this situation.

### Upcoming meetings

September will be a busy month with a number of important meetings taking place;

- Cabinet meetings – September 11<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> – agenda discussed below
- Rights of Way – 12<sup>th</sup> September
- Development Control – 13<sup>th</sup> September
- County Council – 20<sup>th</sup> September
- Pension Fund – 26<sup>th</sup> September
- Audit Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> September
- Scrutiny Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> September

As usual all meetings are public, in each meeting there is a public participation session where you will be able to speak to the committee on certain issues. In addition to this at Full Council, and Cabinet meetings members of the public are entitled to ask questions of the portfolio holder. For more information please head here;

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making/public-speaking-at-meetings/>

### Two Cabinet Meetings in September

As I mentioned in the last Parish report there will be two Cabinet meetings taking place in September, one on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the second now on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

The first of these meetings will discuss the following items

- Presentation of the Annual Public Health Report 2012
- 2012-13 Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report
- Adult Safeguarding Annual Report and Business Plan 2012-14.
- Suffolk Armed Forces Community Covenant
- Suffolk Local Access Forum (SLAF) Annual Report
- Lowestoft Accommodation Business Review Case

The reports for the meeting above can be found here -

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=11/Sep/2012&c=The%20Cabinet>

The second Cabinet meeting will only discuss the decision around who has been awarded the contract to install the broadband connections in the County.

I will provide you with information in the next Parish Report as to who won the contract, and the decisions made at the previous meeting.

#### **Tour of Britain in Suffolk**

As you may have seen, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September the County of Suffolk will see the first leg of the Tour of Britain come through its streets, travelling from Ipswich up to Norwich. This will pass through Southwold and Lowestoft before it heads into Norfolk.

There are also a number of events taking place in towns along the east coast prior to the first stage - <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/libraries-and-culture/leisure-and-sport/tour-of-britain-2012/tour-of-britain-roadsshows/>

Coverage of the event will be shown on ITV4. For more information on the Tour of Britain, please head to - <http://www.tourofbritain.com/>

#### **Suffolk Business Month to be launched**

Throughout September the Suffolk Business Month will be looking to showcase the county of Suffolk, and highlight it as a place to do business, invest and live.

The Business month will be launched on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September in the UCS Waterfront building in Ipswich, with a talk from Andy Woods the Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership at 8.45am. There will also be discussions about Raising the Bar and other important subjects for Suffolk.

In addition to this meeting, there will be a number of other events taking place across Suffolk which can be found here - <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/business/suffolk-business-month/suffolk-business-month-events/>

For more information about the month, and on how to sign up to the opening meeting, please head to - <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/business/suffolk-business-month/>

There is also the opportunity for business in Suffolk to respond to the survey on the website.

#### **Scampaign Update**

The latest update from the 'Scampaign' team focuses on telephone scammers. The most important advice according to the consumer champion for this month is to ensure that you never hand over personal information or confirm details over the phone.

For more information, and to read the other updates from the Scampaign team, please head to - <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/emergency-and-safety/community-safety/suffolk-trading-standards/scams/scampaign/>