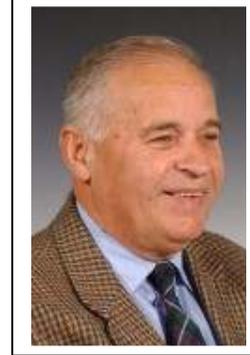


Parish Report August 2012

Councillor

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Libraries – Industrial and Provident Society

On the 1st of August the new Library service was launched with the Industrial and Provident Society taking responsibilities from the County Council. The IPS will take control of the 44 Libraries in Suffolk, as well as the mobile library, school, and prison services.

As mentioned in previous Parish reports this move, according to the administration, is a way to ensure all libraries remain open with paid staff. The main method by which they believe they will save money is that those organisations with charitable status currently get 80% discount on business rates. They also expect the individual libraries to reduce their own budgets by a total of 5%.

It is claimed that the funding for the Library service will be protected for a total of two years. I will keep you updated as to the progress of the Library service.

For more information about the new Library service, the reports can be found here;

Report

http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=09002711804df1c6&qry=c_cmmmittee%7e%7eThe+Cabinet

Appendix

http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=09002711804df1c8&qry=c_cmmmittee%7e%7eThe+Cabinet

Care Homes & Future Cabinet Items

As you will have read before, the County Council will be outsourcing its 16 Care Homes and 8 community wellbeing centres; to a selected provider (the County has specified a preferred bidder in Care UK). This decision will take place at the September Cabinet meeting which takes place on the 11th of September in Endeavour House.

This meeting will clarify a number of elements regarding this transfer, including;

- Confirming the selected provider
- Plans for the transfer of the services
- Plans for the development of the estate
- The terms of the contract
- Relevant timescales
- The business case for accepting the preferred provider

I would hope to see that in this report there will be mention of how the County Council plans to inform those both those residents and the relatives of the ongoing situation, and provide proper support. I will keep you updated as to the progress and the details involved in this significant decision by the County Council.

Other items that are set to be discussed at the next meeting are;

- Presentation of the Annual Public Health Report 2012
- 2012-13 Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report
- Adult Safeguarding Annual Report and Business Plan

Textile Bags – soon to be on their way to Suffolk homes

Recently the County Council announced that it would be provided textile bags to homes to help collect those materials that would not be suitable for charity shops or voluntary organisations. They have launched this campaign in order to help prevent 7,000 tonnes of clothing going into Landfill.

Each household should have now received the first of their bags. In order to use these all you need to do is place the bag with the textiles in your recycling bin on top of all the other recycle; you will then be provided with replacement bags.

Broadband Bid Update

At the beginning of July, Suffolk County Council official invited bids to the £40m Broadband contract that will help provide faster internet speeds for the County.

Both BT and Fujitsu will now have until the 7th of September to make their case for winning the contract. Suffolk County Council will hold a special cabinet meeting on the 20th of September where these bids will be discussed with leaders from across the public sector. The contract will then be awarded on the 8th of October.

I will keep you up to date with any further announcements.