

Parish Report March 2012

Councillor

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Cabinet

The last Cabinet meeting took place at the Babergh Council Offices in Hadleigh. All the papers that were up for discussion were agreed.

One of the most important papers at the meeting was the future model of Adult and Community Services. It was agreed that with the impending budget cuts to ACS, the way the services is provided needs to be remodelled.

The basic idea behind the new strategy is that the community will increase its capacity for dealing with those smaller care related issues, with the County picking up where more permanent care solutions are required. With this paper being only the beginning, the proposals will now go out to consultation with partners and stakeholders. There is little practical information as yet as to how this will affect communities and those in care.

The next cabinet meeting will take place in March, on the 20th, at Endeavour House. On the forward plan for this meeting is;

- Future of Back Office services for Suffolk County Council beyond May 2014
- Arrangements for admissions to schools in Suffolk
- Economic Development – Growth and Opportunity
- Externalisation of Adult Employment Advice Guidance Learning and Skill Service (Realise)
- Joint Lowestoft Office Development with Waveney District Council

The papers for this meeting will probably be released in a few weeks time, and I will update you as to the content at the next meeting. As usual you are able to attend the meeting and ask questions, more information about this is below.

If you wish to see a copy of the paper from February's Cabinet meeting please head to;
<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=21/02/2012&c=The%20Cabinet>

March meetings

The month of March has a number of meetings at the County council that may be of interest to you.

- Development control – 1st March – 10:30am
- Pension Fund Committee – 7th March – 10am
- Scrutiny Committee – 8th March – 10am – agenda mentioned below.
- Rights of Way – 12th March – 10:30am
- Audit Committee – 15th March – 10am
- Cabinet – 20th March – 11am
- Standards Committee – 27th March – 10am
- Full Council - 29th March – 2pm

As usual, members of the public are welcome to attend all public meetings, and are able to submit questions to both the Cabinet and Full Council meeting, provided that they have submitted it at least 4 days before the meeting is scheduled.

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/DecisionMaking/PublicSpeakingatMeetings.htm>

Scrutiny Committee - 8th of March

On the agenda for this meeting is the paper looking into the future of the heritage organisation in Suffolk, and to receive an update on work that Council has been doing regarding a pilot project that helps those young people who are not in education, employment or training (N.E.E.T) in Brandon and Mildenhall.

The paper on the heritage organisation is particularly interesting as it's an opportunity for Councillors on the committee to state what they think should be included in the final business case, question the decisions made by those officers and councillors driving the project forward, and analyse the responses to the consultation that took place earlier this year.

This meeting will take place in Endeavour house and begin at 10am. Members of the public are welcome to attend. A copy of the papers can be found here, listed under Scrutiny Committee - <http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/>

New CareAware Service in Suffolk

Suffolk County Council have recently announced the official launch of CareAware, a service which looks to help those people seeking financial information about how to fund long term care.

This service is not run by Suffolk County Council but a national not for profit organisation who offer free and impartial information and advice about later life planning and how to pay for longer term care. If more information and advice is required, CareAware may recommend an Endorsed Later Life Advisor (provided by a different company and with a possible fee). Other independent financial adviser organisations that can provide advice can be found at www.payingforcare.co.uk (advisers must have a Certificate in Financial Planning and Long-term insurance or the Institute of Financial Service equivalent).

The service was given a soft launch on October the 17th and they have been contacted by 80 people already.

They can be contacted on 08009540091 or email them at suffolk@careaware.co.uk