

Parish Report November 2012

Councillor

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County Care Homes to be Divested

At October's Cabinet meeting in Bury the administration voted to divest the Council of its care homes. This means that the County Council will pass over its 16 care homes and 8 wellbeing centres to Care UK or its funding partner as part of a 25 year contract to provide care.

The decision also includes an estate development plan, which commits Care UK to provide 10 new purpose built care homes and 10 community wellbeing centres, many of which will be in different locations to the current homes, with the old sites being handed back to the County. The County Council has also passed on eight sites for these new care homes which due the reduced financial burden on Care UK will result in a lower bed prices in the future.

If you would like more information about this paper, including financial information and arrangements for sites, please head this link and look at the reports under Item No.5 - <http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=16/Oct/2012&c=The%20Cabinet>

This decision has also been called in to the Scrutiny committee for a review, and I will update you to the result of this in due course. In the meantime if you would like to see a copy of the reasons behind this decision please head here - <http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=0900271180a08029>

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Fire Merger

Another important item that was agreed at the Cabinet meeting was for discussions around greater joint working, between the Suffolk Fire Service, and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority, to continue. The two options on the table are currently either a voluntary combination or increased collaborative working.

The agreement means that a full business case will now be developed with a view to presenting the preferred option to the Cabinet and Full Council in January and February of next year. There is a strict time limit on this paper as the decision must be given to National Government to approve by late February 2013.

Due to this time limitation, a consultation has recently been launched to gauge the public's viewpoint on this decision. Unfortunately this means that the full business case will not be available to the public in order to make a decision which is a concern. If you would like to respond to the consultation, please head to this address for more information - <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making/consultations/delivering-the-best-fire-service-to-you/>

If you would like a copy of the report that went to Cabinet in October, please head to - <http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=16/Oct/2012&c=The%20Cabinet>

Police and Crime Panel

The election for Police and Crime Commissioner will take place on the 15th of November, providing the public with an opportunity to choose an elected head of the Police service in Suffolk.

In addition to this, the County Council will be the host of the Police and Crime Panel, which is made up of Councillors from each of the authorities to both scrutinise and support the PCC.

For more information on the Panel, including membership and meeting dates, please head to this address below - <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making/committees/police-and-crime-panel-joint-committee/>

New Drivers urged to get in gear

Suffolk County Council has recently announced that it is to subsidise 250 places on a young driver's course to help build confidence, improve skills and save money.

This decision means that the usual cost of £150 has been reduced to only £30. The course is available for drivers between 17 and 19, and helps those who have passed their test in the last 12 months to identify the risks they are exposed to and developing coping strategies.

The classroom sessions will be held at venues across Suffolk. There are currently courses at Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Lowestoft fire stations.

Bury St Edmunds Fire Station

Tuesday 6 November: 4.30 - 6.30pm

Thursday 29 November: 6.15 - 8.15pm

Ipswich East Fire Station

Thursday 15 November: 4.30 - 6.30pm

Tuesday 4 December: 6.15 - 8.15pm

Lowestoft South Fire Station

Thursday 17 January: 4.15 - 6.15pm

Thursday 28 February: 6.15 - 8.15pm

To book on a course, go to www.suffolkroadsafe.net/getingear. For more information, contact Jane Holland on jane.holland@suffolk.gov.uk

