

Parish Report October 2012

Councillor

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Cabinet to look again at Concessionary Fares enhancements

The County Council Cabinet will look again at their decision to provide only the statutory minimum free travel (0930-2300 weekdays, all day weekends and bank holidays), after the Liberal Democrat Group called the decision into the Scrutiny Committee at the end of September.

Cllr Caroline Page and Cllr David Wood presented the case that the Cabinet had failed to consult users of the scheme before making its decision. This was highlighted a number of public speakers present at the meeting who had not been able to put their position to the Council. In fact there was only one piece of feedback included in the July Cabinet report, and that was because that user group asked specifically to contribute.

The Committee voted by seven votes to three to send this decision back to the Cabinet to be considered. I will keep you updated of any news as to when this will be. In the meantime if you would like more information about the Call-in, please head to -
<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=090027118097f16c>

September County Council Meeting

The County Council meeting in September had quite a light agenda, but proved relatively eventful.

With only a motion about improving localism to help adopt 20mph speed limits in towns, election of the health scrutiny chairman and the portfolio holder reports set to be discussed, it could be assumed that the meeting would have passed without any significant issues.

However, an amendment proposed by Conservative administration to the motion was such a change to the original text that the opposition parties, apart from the proposer and seconder of the motion, walked out of the Council chamber. This was because the motion had completely changed format as was not recognisable, so a debate on the amended Conservative motion began to take place instead. The motion had even been distributed to those interested parties before the meeting, and no warning of such a re-write had been given.

Cabinet Meetings

As expected, all of the papers presented to both Cabinet meetings in September were agreed. The most significant of was the Cabinet agreeing to take the Better Broadband for Suffolk to the next stage, increasing the level of money coming from Suffolk, and looking to agree the contract.

At the previous meeting the Cabinet also confirmed the Councils commitment to sign up to the Suffolk Armed Forces Community Covenant on the 11th of October.

For the Broadband report from the Cabinet meeting on the 24th of September please head to -
<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=090027118097ad31>

For the reports at the previous Cabinet meeting on the 11th of October please head to -
<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=11/Sep/2012&c=The%20Cabinet>

Grand Driver Scheme

Suffolk County Council in partnership with Suffolk Roadsafe has launched the Grand Driver scheme which aims to provide support to the increasing numbers of elderly drivers on the road. While there is evidence to suggest that the likelihood of crashes increases with age, older adults are generally renowned as being safety conscious and law abiding drivers.

The scheme has been set up to help assist the continuation of safe driving, as older drivers are the fastest growing driving population.

The scheme comprises of 3 main elements and takes place on a demand led basis:

- Insight and awareness of attitudes to driving and self-regulatory behaviour – via completion of the specially developed Older Driver Risk Index (psychometric questionnaire)
- An opportunity to update and refresh knowledge and discuss driving matters at workshops arranged throughout Suffolk
- A driving assessment and feedback in your own vehicle focusing on safe driving and coping strategies

For more information, please contact Michelle Haward:

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Scampaign – Lottery Scams

The latest update from the Trading Standards Scheme is a warning about lottery scams, which often claim you have won a significant amount of money on an overseas or online lottery and ask for your personal information including your bank account details. Please find below the information released by Trading Standards in order to help protect yourself.

Protecting yourself against lottery fraud:

- Never respond to any communication - if you haven't entered a lottery then you can't have won it.
- Any request for a fee payment is a good indication that someone is trying to defraud you – there are no official lottery operators who ask for fees to collect winnings
- Never, ever disclose your bank details or pay fees in advance
- If they've provided an email address to respond to, be very suspicious of addresses such as @hotmail.com or @yahoo.com or numbers beginning with 07, because these are free to get hold of
- Genuine lotteries thrive on publicity. If they ask you to keep your win a secret it's likely to be a fraud
- Many fraudulent lotteries have bad spelling and grammar – see this as a warning that fraudsters are at work

What to do if you are a victim of lottery fraud:

- Report to Action Fraud specialists by calling 0300 123 2040
- If you have responded to the email/letter/call, break off all contact with the fraudsters at once
- If you have given over your bank account details, alert your bank immediately
- Be aware that you're now likely to be a target for other frauds. Fraudsters often share details about people they have successfully targeted or approached, using different identities to commit further frauds