

## **PARISH REPORT NOVEMBER 2024**

### **ORWELL & VILLAGES**

#### **Devolution & Council reorganisation**

The White Paper on devolution and council reorganisation is due to be issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> December so hopefully we will be able to provide clarity when we attend meetings in December. There has been much press speculation ranging from the removal of both district and county councils and the introduction of super unitary councils to a single Mayor and combined authority covering both Norfolk and Suffolk. In both those cases councillors would become responsible for representing at least double the number of residents we do at present.

This was not in the Labour manifesto and takes decision making even further away from our communities. The link between parishes and district councils may be fraught at times but issues such as planning can be easily communicated between parish and district councillors and making the gap between parishes and councillors bigger will take away local understanding.

We will wait to see exactly what is being proposed and the likely timescale.

#### ***Introducing the first ever East Suffolk Youth Council!***

A new council entirely comprising young people from across East Suffolk has now officially formed, ensuring the voices and concerns of younger residents are heard.

Thirty-two young people from up and down East Suffolk have been elected to the new East Suffolk Youth Council, an innovative initiative designed to engage young people in politics and enable them to influence decisions affecting their lives and communities.

Youth from every secondary educational community in East Suffolk, as well as the homeschooled were invited to stand for election earlier this year. These elections took place ahead of an induction day held at East Suffolk House in Melton on Monday 18 November, where the thirty-two members of the Youth Council were 'sworn in'.

Youth councillors will set their own priorities, have their own debates and reach their own decisions. They will have real and robust connections with East Suffolk Council, to ensure young peoples' voices are heard loud and clear in council decisions, and to drive real change across the district.

#### **North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood**

Many thanks to the parish clerks who helped in advertising the exhibition which Mike and I arranged at Trimley St Martin Memorial Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> November. It was gratifying to see both parish councillors and local residents from the villages there. Whilst there were not huge numbers (about 40 over the six hours) we did have the opportunity to discuss with residents in much greater detail than we had been able to engage at the meetings held in Felixstowe. The next stage is for the Cabinet to approve the draft outline planning application which will then be subject to rigorous consultation.

**For your information**

**Christmas and New Year Bin Collection Dates**

Usual collection date	Revised collection date
Monday 23 December	Saturday 21 December
Tuesday 24 December	Monday 23 December
Wednesday 25 December	Tuesday 24 December
Thursday 26 December	Friday 27 December
Friday 27 December	Saturday 28 December
Monday 30 December	Monday 30 December
Tuesday 31 December	Tuesday 31 December
Wednesday 1 January	Thursday 2 January
Thursday 2 January	Friday 3 January
Friday 3 January	Saturday 4 January

**Collections will then return to normal from Monday 6 January.**

**Residents whose bin is not collected as expected are advised to check the [delayed bin collection information](#).**

**Anyone unable to access this service online is asked to contact our Customer Services team on 03330 162000.**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parish councillors for the work that they do and their welcome for us over the past year. Mike and I wish you a peaceful Christmas period and New Year and look forward to seeing you again in 2025.

If parish councillors need to contact either of us, please feel free to do so.

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