

PARISH REPORT OCTOBER 2024

ORWELL & VILLAGES

Foxburrow Farm Container Storage Appeal

Mike and I together with a councillor from Martlesham have submitted an objection to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the appeal made by Foxburrow Container Storage against the decision by East Suffolk Council to reject the application for storage of up to 1,200 containers at Brightwell. We know several other parish councils have also submitted objections and hopefully the Inspector will make a visit to the site and agree that the location, road layout and business plan of the appellant are unsound.

How the Budget may affect East Suffolk Council

The Budget last week did give an extra £ 1.3 billion to local councils. However, this was more than £ 1 billion less than the Local Government Association stated was required to maintain services at the current level nationally.

The announcement of multi-years settlement from 2026-27 and reform of the local government funding system is the stability and certainty district councils need, following several years of one-year settlements. This is welcome news after the effect of many years of single year financial settlements on ESC budgets, inflationary pressures, high costs and emergency response to events like Covid and flooding.

It was also pleasing to hear positive announcements around housing, including additional funding for homelessness and changes to the retention of Right to Buy receipts. This will help the council to invest in new social housing and improve its existing housing stock.

However, there was less good news on the temporary housing front. It was disappointing that the housing benefit subsidy cap for temporary accommodation will not be increased, or the Local Housing Allowance rate uprated in April 2025. LHA has been frozen at 2020 rates despite the large increase in private housing rental costs. This will mean a continuation of financial pressure for temporary accommodation costs.

We will need to see what the council's provisional settlement will be for the 2025-2026 year but in the meantime the cabinet and senior officers have been working on setting a balanced budget before February 2025 as required.

North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood

Just a reminder that the public Q&A session regarding NFGN takes place on Thursday 7th November at Felixstowe School. There is a limit of 300 seats available many of which have already been ordered. An exhibition of the boards will be available at the school from 5.30pm and the Q&A session with senior ESC officers and councillors will take place from 6.30pm to 8pm.

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

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