

## Suffolk County Council report from Cllr Andy Drummond:

As a member of the Conservative Party, I was delighted that Nick Timothy was elected Minister of Parliament for West Suffolk in July 2024. Nick is an excellent constituency MP, and I know he has already engaged with all the parishes within my division, and I work closely with his team to ensure his constituency days (which tend to be on Fridays) are as beneficial as possible.

I'm the Newmarket & Red Lodge division, Suffolk County Councillor which covers half of Newmarket - that being the North ward and half of East ward. The division also covers five other parishes: Red Lodge, Kentford, Moulton, Dalham and Herringswell which completes the division.

I also represent Icení ward on West Suffolk Council – as its within my county division and I live in the village of Herringswell – part of the division/ward.

I am also a member of Newmarket Town Council and Red Lodge Parish Council.

In January this year county decided to take advantage of the devolution offer from government which will see a combined authority of Norfolk & Suffolk with an elected mayor and a unitary (or series of unitary) councils below that will assume the responsibilities of county and district alike. The structure is in the process of being decided but what this has meant is that Suffolk County Council elections were cancelled – because the structure is being disbanded and this alone saves £1m in election costs.

On county I'm a member of the development and regulation committee - a kind of planning committee - not for housing because that's the remit of West Suffolk - but for development that county has the powers to determine itself such as public rights of way, schools, and quarries.

I try to attend all the town and parish meetings that occur in my division - it can be complicated because they are sometimes on the same night. For example, Mondays tend to be quite busy with many meetings on the same day and at the same time.

At the parish meetings I usually give a verbal report. A written monthly parish newsletter that covers Suffolk is sent to your members by email. I take questions and feedback to the parish clerk on any queries that I can't answer on the night.

During the month I cascade information that I receive to parish clerks such as deployment dates of the ANPR camera and road closures which is hopefully shared with local members.

I'm contactable on: **Andy.Drummond@Suffolk.gov.uk** or mobile on 07710 027 343 if you have any issues pertaining to county which could include:

- Roads and transport
- Care and support for adults
- Children, families, and learning

- Fire and rescue services
- Trading Standards
- Waste recycling
- Culture, heritage, and leisure

County councillors have two types of locality budget - one that's non-specific and another for Highways issues.

I will now detail the various projects across my division during 2024/25:

### **NEWMARKET**

Through collaboration with Cllr Hood (county councillor for Exning & Newmarket) we successfully appealed to the new owner of Morecroft House to restore the pathway between Laureate School Road and Willie Snaith Road

We are also collaborating on a cycle path connection between Exning & Burwell that will soon come to fruition.

Newmarket Charitable Trust – contribution to shop signage for a High Street pop-up shop

Newmarket Day Centre – specialist gardening equipment

### **RED LODGE**

The yellow lining of Hundred Acre Way was completed, and the associated Traffic Regulation Order put in place. This was the completion of a project started in 2020.

### **MOULTON**

Improvements to the Boy's Grave junction – promised for completion by 6<sup>th</sup> June.

### **KENTFORD**

Defibrillator £1500

### **HERRINGSWELL**

Added capital funding for road signage at Warren Road and Tuddenham Road

### **DALHAM**

Various ongoing speeding issues

Promise of £500 towards floor refurbishment in the village hall

Annual Town & Parish Meetings are always a good way of getting a feel for what's going well and what's not – contentious issues draw big crowds whereas small crowds indicate satisfaction!

With respect to the meetings that I can attend I look forward to finding out what issues are of concern to residents.

Thank you.

May 2025