

ANNUAL Parish Report 2017

Councillor

Penny Otton

Meadowside
High Street
Rattlesden
Bury St Edmunds
IP30 0RA

01449 737870

penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk



SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET; this was agreed on 17th Feb.. This includes the 2% rise for social care.

Following the elections on 4th May the new leader and cabinet members will be agreed at the annual meeting on 25th May.

DEVOLUTION; this time last year this was the “big thing”, however with various Norfolk councils voting against the proposals it is now left to the minister to make any decision.

HIGHWAYS; with another year of poor service the council has agreed to adopt a risk-based approach to repair work i.e. higher risk on A roads, this means potholes on minor roads may be take longer to be dealt with.

THURSTON COMMUNITY COLLGE; I have been involved in 2 debates; last year before the EU referendum and in March as part of their Democracy day. Congratulations to the school on being selected to receive a banner celebrating the 800th anniversary of Magna carter which was presented to the Beyton campus on 4th July 2016 where I was present. This is one of 18 and the only secondary school to be selected.

The group trying to get the swimming pool on the Beyton site open have been actively gaining support and raising money. I have tried to speed up the lease agreement.

REVIEW OF WASTE FACILITY IN BURY ST EDMUNDS; There is concern that it is closed on Wednesdays and the increase in fly-tipping.

LOCALITY BUDGET AND SMALL HIGHWAYS BUDGET; I am happy to have been able to use these to help with the cost of the VASign, and covers for the heat exchangers outside the village hall. Earlier in the year I also helped

with a drama project run by the Theatre Royal and put on at Rattlesden primary school.

MID SUFFOLK;

The council has made some big decisions; the move to Endeavour house in Ipswich and the change to a cabinet, although the leader has agreed that I will have a place on the cabinet without portfolio. **WEBSITE;** there is now an updated web site and a new single 03001234000 phone number; I have it on authority that this will be charged at standard local rate from anywhere in the country ; (mobile contracts may be different) details will come out in April

The Boundary commission is doing a review of the number of councillors which could result in new parish boundaries. There is also the review of Constituency boundaries ; with a proposal to put Drinkstone into South Suffolk. We have objected.

PLANNING; Once again there have been dissatisfaction s to how the council recognises the status of the conservation area.

GLIDING CLUB; the regular liason meetings have been very useful. The final permission now granted.

I hope we have been able to get things done.

I am obviously delighted to have been re-elected as your county councillor.