

District Councillor's Report for September 2019

Ipswich Northern Route (INR)

There has been a great deal of activity and protest on this, and there is still much more to come. I am regularly asked to define the position of East Suffolk. For my part, I have no role in the consultation process. However, I have attended several Parish meetings to discuss INR and several parishes have written to the key players in this consultation outlining the concerns we have. The Leader of the Council, Steve Gallant, has replied to these letters in the following way.

I have repeatedly said that I am fully in favour of a consultation on a range of options. However this does not mean that I have expressed support for all or any of the proposals tabled.

I think the right approach is to seek a wide range of views on this issue - and only then can we fully consider both the pros and cons of any scheme before making an informed decision regarding our overall position.

I have very clearly stated that the stance of East Suffolk Council will only be formed by weighing up the benefits to our district against the impact that such a scheme would have.

This includes listening to the views of the public and businesses, considering the financial implications, understanding the impact on our environment, the quality of life of residents and any economic opportunities that the proposals might bring.

I believe that public consultation on this and indeed any major infrastructure project is the right and proper thing to do and in order to make such consultation meaningful it is only right that we fully consider the results of the consultation before we nail our colours to any mast.


East Suffolk to battle climate change

East Suffolk Council voted unanimously to step up its positive work on environmental issues to help fight climate change at its Full Council meeting on 24 July.

While the Council recognises there is a good record of taking action on environmental issues across East Suffolk, it has now joined other local authorities in recognising the fact there is a Carbon Emergency – and committed itself to doing more to reduce its own carbon emissions and to encourage communities to help fight climate change.

What next?

- The Council is commissioning an independent review of its progress to-date which will identify opportunities for further work to reduce carbon emissions which will feed into an action plan that will help us monitor progress towards meeting this challenging new target.
- The Council will be setting up a cross-party member task group to consider the results of that independent review and to recommend future priorities for action on climate change, building on the progress that has already been achieved.

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- The Council will continue to work with its partners across the county to ensure a coordinated approach, joint working in areas where we can deliver more by working together and to ensure a strong voice to influence and encourage others to act.

Community Partnerships

To bring about closer involvement by ESC at the local level and bring together community groups, we have decided to introduce a scheme of Community Partnerships. This is a result of the wider areas covered by the new wards and the difficulty in keeping up with the needs of parishes. There will be eight of them across the District. Carlsford and Fynn Valley will be joining with Kesgrave and Martlesham to form one group. We have established steering groups chaired by a Ward Member from each group and they should publicise their recommendations later this year. The actual meetings will begin in early 2020. They will be considering, initially, issues such as rural isolation, public transport improvements, support for the younger people. The actual list of activities to be addressed will be based on the needs for each particular area. There will be a grant for each Partnership to spend on their chosen activities.

Local Plan Hearing

Hearing Day 9 (Tuesday 17th September –Week 4) will consider :

- Are the proposed Area Specific Strategies, allocations and policies justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

The final day of the Hearing will be Friday 20th September (Week 4).

This will review:

- Are all the policies clear, justified and consistent with national policies?

We do not have a date when the Inspector will issue his report, but the new plan is expected to be adopted early in the new year.

Sizewell C Stage 4

There will again be a joint response from SCC and ESC following the JLAG (Joint Local Authority Group) analysis. This will be discussed and agreed at the SCC Cabinet meeting on 24th September. The deadline for responding to the Stage 4 proposals is 27th September.

The general comments from the public seem to suggest that little progress has been made since Stage 3.

Tony Fryatt
15th September 2019