

Suffolk County Councillors April 2020 – March 2021 Report

What an extraordinary Annual Summary to think about in April 2021. Let us start with praising Suffolk County Council for the amazing work they have done for our County which has resulted in so much care and help on offer for our Suffolk communities during this unprecedented time with Covid-19. We were able to source and purchase the necessary PPE for our hospitals and care homes direct from manufacturers rather than await central distribution, and they have set up testing and vaccination centres throughout the county. Working with the District Council, the Home But Not Alone scheme supported our most vulnerable residents during the pandemic and issued over £100m in grants to support businesses. Our Suffolk Children and Young People's Services won top awards nationally for their work in 2020, and continue to evolve to meet the demands of our families. A new initiative 'Adopt East' has been launched to recruit adopters across Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Bedfordshire and Cambridge to and raise the bar on finding loving and supportive families to give children who have not had the best start in a life, a forever home.

Services to the elderly have also seen innovation and support to improve the lives of our residents throughout the county with such facilities as technological connection in easy to use Carephones.

We were delighted to see the completion of Carlton Colville School car park in 2020. It was the very first major project that Craig and I embarked upon when we were elected in 2017. Good things come to those who wait!

Our work to improve the footpath between Seven Acres and Pakefield High School continues; this has taken a long time but we have not given up!

Melanie has been working with Peter Aldous and Highways to alleviate the flooding in Burnt Hill Lane on both sides of the train tracks. Following a camera survey of the drains on March 25th, Suffolk Highways have reported a blockage in the pipes which will need some major road work to repair, and we are awaiting the Drainage Team's advice on what must be done. Melanie is working together with Network Rail, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Peter Aldous MP to support on this project.

The flood defence work on Kirkley Stream, protecting roads such as Aldwyk Way and Velda Close is nearing completion. Work on the tidal walls in Lowestoft have just recently commenced.

Carlton Colville schools have been open throughout the pandemic, as whilst teachers have worked online with most pupils, they have been educating children of key workers on school premises. Our thanks go to all the staff for the extraordinary work they have produced under such challenging circumstances! And thanks too to the parents and grandparents who have taken on the role of teaching children at home and ensuring school-set lessons are completed.

The projects in Carlton Colville with allotments are a real credit to our community and we look forward to seeing a new season of crops and flowers emerge. Suffolk has announced £228,000 to invest in tree planting, the restoration of hedgerows and improving roadside verges for wildlife. Please put forward any ideas you would like to see in Carlton Colville to help to encourage biodiversity and carbon reduction. Which brings me onto the very welcome opening of Carlton Marshes new SWT visitor centre. What a joy to have this on our doorstep. Craig and Melanie have been able to support this and many other projects with financial help from our locality budgets. You can take a walk across the marshes and a ferryboat onwards to the Waveney River Centre for lunch and refreshments! Lovely day out for the family. Craig and Melanie have committed highways funding now to create a safe light-controlled crossing over the very busy Beccles Road for

pedestrians and cycles. Once the COVID restrictions are completely lifted we will be able to request a traffic survey to evidence the need of such a crossing.

You will notice new electric Council vehicles on the roads as we replace those at the end of their leases with clean engine power. We are investing £300,000 in siting many more electric charging points throughout the County as we all 'go green' to meet Suffolk's 2030 target to become carbon neutral. Experiments with street lighting using new wind turbine and solar powered lights combined to provide reactive lighting throughout the county. Two such interesting lights can be seen in Grand Avenue and Pakefield Road.

In addition to our local work, Melanie has continued to represent the County Council on the Broads Authority, chairing the planning committee and serving on the IFCA. Craig has served as Deputy Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project Board.

In short, we have really enjoyed the past four years of representing Carlton Colville as your Suffolk County Councillors with challenges and rewards in equal measure and hope to carry on! It is a pleasure to work closely with Carlton Colville Town Council for the community.