

## Carlton Colville Year in Review

### Beccles Road Crossing

The proposed Beccles Road crossing is progressing. We would want to thank Carlton Marshes and Carlton Colville Town Council for their assistance in mobilising a vast number of volunteers to count the number of pedestrians crossing the road. In addition to this Mel and Craig paid for the vehicle count to be undertaken electronically. It was great to see so many volunteers and members of the public so supportive of the proposals and we were lucky to have such good weather. As you know the highways allocation we receive is not a tremendous sum; by using volunteers it saved us having to pay for the pedestrian count and this enables Mel and Craig to support other highway improvements, such as the completion of the missing footpath immediately outside of Pakefield High School. In addition to the counting we surveyed visitors arriving at Carlton Marshes by car: so many agreed they would either cycle or walk if a crossing was present.

More recently Alison (the clerk of CCTC), Mel and Craig met highway engineers to discuss a proposed location. It was a productive meeting where we identified issues that would need to be resolved and we are working on those. Mel and Craig have also met with the Cabinet Member for Highways to further advocate for the need for this crossing. We will continue to do all we can to make this crossing a reality. The cost of this crossing will be significant, we have all experienced increased costs at the petrol pumps, supermarket and DIY stores; should we get the go ahead for the crossing, it will not be immune to these increases.

The historic flooding in Hall Road Carlton Colville and The Street we continue to seek to resolve. The County Council allocated further money to tackle problem flooding areas. We contacted the highways team to request that both streets be considered for allocation from these funds. Hall Road gullies were cleared in January of this year. The Street was assessed to have required camera inspection. We have been advised that there will be a road closure on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for the works to go ahead.

The County Council's work with the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project has seen the completion of the reinforcement of defences along Kirkley Stream – just in the County division at Velda Close and Aldwyck Way - the barrier heights have been increased, pumping station installed and stream cleared of vegetation. The larger project (for which Craig is a member of the project Board) of a tidal barrier and flood walls continues. You may have seen the tidal walls commencing in Lowestoft.

Burnt Hill Lane is another road with severe flooding problems after heavy rain storms. Last winter rain was being washed up into the Crossing Cottage one side of the rail lines and Highways Flood team did what they could to improve matters but collapsed pipes further towards the wooded area could not be easily repaired and the task has been programmed into their work schedule. On the further side of the rail lines there is also a severe road flooding problem and Highways recognise that the drain catch is not in the lowest point of

the road and more work needs to be carried out. Meanwhile Craig and Mel are pushing for this task to be completed as it is the main road access whether by foot or car into the Suffolk Wildlife site at Carlton Marshes, which is a major tourist attraction and a wonderful place for local adults and children to visit.

### Gull Wing Bridge

Whilst not in the division, many residents will no doubt be interested in the progress of the major infrastructure project for Lowestoft. Craig is on the project Board, which meets regularly and can say that it is progressing well. It's great to see the cranes on the horizon; it's finally coming to fruition after all these years of wanting!

### Locality Spend

During 2021/2022

Craig has allocated from his locality spend:

£1,350.00 to Kirkley and Pakefield Football Club for a set of Goals  
£2,273.60 to East Suffolk Council for the provision of picnic benches by The Oddfellows pub  
£1,140.00 to 1<sup>st</sup> Pakefield Guides for a new shed.  
£1,000.00 to East Anglian Transport Museum for the replacement of historic tyres on their 1916 Thorneycroft J Lorry  
£1,500 to Pakefield Church for repairs to their drainage system.  
£500.00 to Greener Growth to assist with the creation of the community garden at The Graylings Carlton Colville.  
£500 to Grove Primary School (PTFA) to support travel costs for pupils to visit London  
£500 to Pakefield Singers to extend their staging.

Mel has allocated

£1,000 to Coastwatch for long overdue repairs and redecoration of the lighthouse  
£2,500 to Pakefield Church for repairs to their drainage system.  
£200 to Lowestoft Community Church for their Christmas lights and brass band  
£2,273.60 to East Suffolk Council for the provision of picnic bench bases on Oddfellows Green  
£1,000 to Grove Primary School (PTFA) to support costs of travel to London and Snape Maltings for pupils.  
£952 to Seagull Theatre Dementia Care Group  
£500 Kirkley and Pakefield Football Club - Line Marker

In addition to our local responsibilities, Mel is the Deputy Cabinet Member for Protected Landscapes and Archaeology, and Craig is the Deputy Cabinet Member for County Farms and Property.

Mel represents the County Council on the:  
Broads Authority and is Chairman of Planning

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority and is Vice Chair  
The Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme  
Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Joint Advisory Committee and Partnership

### Biodiversity

In view of the need to increase biodiversity in 2021 Mel led a Policy Development Panel to formulate ways in which we as a County Council can ensure that our work and standards provide the path to a 30% increase in biodiversity by 2030. This includes the way in which Suffolk's highways including hedge cutting and verge cutting are managed and reducing the amount of chemicals we use on the highways in all forms so that wildlife and vegetation flourish. Where new housing estates are built, we shall expect the various planning authorities to ensure that corridors for wildlife are preserved and created, especially linking them to waterways. Any unused land belonging to Suffolk County Council will be used to create environments that encourage biodiversity and the same principles for that which for example, surrounds buildings where large pockets of suitable habitat can be incorporated. Trees are already high on our agenda and recent grants have already seen woodlands being planted. The carbon capture is essential to help prevent global warming and another policy panel have looked in detail at that aspect.

There are so many more ideas which will emerge to meet and hopefully exceed our 30% target. We now need to budget the cost of these actions into our forward plans at SCC. Such ideas as The Graylings Community Gardens are such a great way to improve biodiversity and Mel is so pleased to see all the hard work which has been carried out in Carlton Colville to create this wonderful space.

### District

#### The Graylings Community Garden

It took some time – for which I'm thankful for the Town Council's patience – in resolving the land issues that came to light with the project. Unfortunately, the private land owner of part of the Graylings did not ultimately wish to transfer the land to ESC or CCTC. This took some time both to establish the owner and if they would be willing to transfer the land.

Nonetheless the community garden was able to proceed with the area owned by East Suffolk Council – Craig was delighted ESC were able to support the project by permitting the use of the land. During all weathers it's been great to be involved with the group planting willows, moving soil and with much more to come over the next year. In addition to Craig's county locality monies he's also supported the project with his district pot – see later.

### Platinum Jubilee

The town council, like with so many activities, are so proactive for residents, the platinum jubilee being another great example. Craig was delighted to support the Jubilee event by facilitating the involvement of the Transport Museum as part of the celebrations. It looks to be a great event and can't wait for it to occur.

Locality Budget allocations:

£500 Catch 22 Football

£210 Rotavator CC Allotments

£1000 Mutford Church repairs

£2000 Greener Growth

£500 Thin Ice

£720 Dog Poo Bin the Graylings

£1000 Jubilee Mugs for school children in Carlton Colville