

**WEST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLOR SUSAN GLOSSOP**

**FLEMPTON CUM HENGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Annual report 2024**

**Committees on which I serve.**

Development control  
Overview and scrutiny committee  
Officer's appeal committee  
Staff consultive panel

**Outside bodies**

West Stow Anglo Saxon Village Trust  
Feoffment Trust

100% Attendance record for all Council meetings

**Council tax April 2024 - 2025**

Council tax band D

West Suffolk	£197.82
Police and crime commissioner	£275.58
Suffolk County council	£1571.04

**Locality budget spend April 2023 -April 2024**

Culford	village hall upgrade	£500
Icklingham	entry gates to village	£750
Flempton cum Hengrave	entry gates to village	£800
West Stow	fishing lake pathway improvements	£750

**Planning Applications**

Planning applications are of importance to residents several individual planning applications have been made. Most applications have been approved enabling people to build extensions or make alterations to their property. Not all applications go smoothly however, and I would strongly advise people wanting to put in an application to talk to the Parish Council who make comments pertinent to each application. It is worth having pre-application advice from Planning Officers. I am also readily available to discuss any individual plans with

anyone in the village and I frequently act as a go-between between resident and Planning Officer to try to resolve any problems on an informal basis.

### **Garden Waste Collection**

The cost of a brown bin £50 per year for 2024

link for signing up on line: [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

### **Issues raised by the Community**

Many of the issues have been highway issues which the Suffolk County Councillor are responsible for. There has been concern raised about the speeding of the traffic and the very large lorries using the roads through the villages and not the directions diversion routes when the A14 has been having refurbishing work carried out overnight.

The fire damaged cottages has been a major concern for the parish council and the residents of Hengrave

Fly tipping

Speeding traffic through the villages

Maintenance of public rights of way

Dog fouling

Flooding has been a big issue

Public footpaths overgrown with weeds

Motor bicycles and 4x4 using byways as racing tracks

The use of the byways by 4x4's and motor bikes

Flooding has been a major problem with need for better management of ditches and drains being maintained to deal with the excessive water.

### **Highlights from West Suffolk 2023-2024**

The elections in May 2023 resulted in a change to the administration of the West Suffolk council from Conservatives led council to a coalition formed between the Labour and Independents.

The new administration took the decision to cancel the Western Way project which was to provide a new leisure centre and swimming pool and a day care nursery and house the records office. They have opted to carry out the necessary repairs to the existing swimming pool.

A grounds maintenance review was carried out in the Autumn. As agreed by Council as part of the budget process we have been able to increase our grass cutting capacity this coming season following the grounds maintenance review. This means increased capacity in terms of staff and resources in both the North and South of the District.

### **The use of Glyphosate**

Following the ban of using Glyphosate by West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council the control of weeds was a very big problem with many complaints of the state of the areas being overgrown with weeds.

SCC Highways took the decision to reinstate its use of Glyphosate weed control from 01 April 2024 earlier this year on the basis that nothing else they have trialled works anywhere near as effectively.

Programme details can be found here - [Weed control - Suffolk County Council](#)

WSC continues not to use Glyphosate on its land.

### **The strategic priorities for the administration of West Suffolk Council**

Affordable available decent homes

Environment resilience

Sustainable growth

Thriving communities

### **Work on the next local plan for 2024 – 2040**

The final consultation closed on the 12th March 2024 with over 1,000 responses this is the technical and legal consultation. All the responses will be recorded, and the submission consultation document and evidence base will be submitted to the Secretary of State for the independent examination which will be carried out late in 2024. In Spring 2025 there will be a modification consultation. It is envisaged that the new West Suffolk local plan will be adopted in Spring 2025.

### **Creation of a Decarbonisation Initiatives fund of a £1 million**

The first call on the fund is a grant scheme for the upgrading of streetlights owned by the town and parish councils to LED lanterns. After this scheme is completed the remaining balance of the fund will be for additional decarbonisation initiatives.

### **Local tax reduction scheme**

This scheme will be extended for another year from the 1st April 2024. This is a means tested scheme that aims to support residents in financial hardship in light of the cost of living crisis. The reduction is a 100% on the Council tax reduction scheme and lasts for one year only.

### **West Suffolk council overview of the last year**

4.3 million black and blue household waste bins emptied.

2495 determined planning applications.

839 food safety inspection carried out.

Assisted 236 West Suffolk households with adaptations to their homes through disabled facilities grants at a cost of £1,879,394.

### **Contact details for your District Councillor**

#### **Cllr Susan Glossop West Suffolk Council**

Tel: 01284 728377    mobile    07473041394

email [susan.glossop@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:susan.glossop@westsuffolk.gov.uk)