

# Parish Report – July 2022

**Councillor: Penny Otton**

**Divisions: Thedwastre sth**

**County Council Details**

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For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>

Latest SCC COVID information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email:

[refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk)

## **Suffolk GLI to declare a Cost-of-Living Emergency**

Full Council is on the 7<sup>th</sup> July. Our Group have submitted a motion calling for SCC to declare a Cost-of-Living Emergency, and for the Council to redirect funds and efforts towards targeting those most vulnerable. . Our Group calls on this government for further support to those falling below the poverty line.

In addition, we are calling on the government to make it easier and cheaper to insulate homes. Our motion asks to waive VAT on energy-saving materials, such as insulation, and adequately fund a retrofitting programme so communities can save money on their bills during winter where energy price caps are due to rise even further.

## **Cabinet Meeting: SEND Capital Programme**

Cabinet met on 20<sup>th</sup> June to vote on funding the next phase of SCC's programme to build more capacity for children with SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS. The cabinet agreed a package of £15.9m, as part of a £45m programme. Currently, there is a high demand for SEND services, with requests for placement going up by 32% since 2020. The funding Cabinet have agreed will create three new specialist units across Suffolk. I am pleased about this, but it will take time.

The council has been found guilty again and fined for not providing such a place for a child.

## **Petition for in-house Suffolk Highways maintenance contract: Still need signatures!**

Our Group's petition continues, demanding that SCC produces an in-house bid for the new Suffolk Highways contract. The contract, which will have been held by Kier for 10 years, is up for renewal next year. We need 3,675 signatures to bring this to debate at the Council. Please sign here (ensure you make your name public, or it won't count!):

[https://www.petitions.net/for\\_suffolk\\_county\\_council\\_to\\_develop\\_an\\_in-house\\_bid\\_for\\_suffolk\\_highways\\_maintenance](https://www.petitions.net/for_suffolk_county_council_to_develop_an_in-house_bid_for_suffolk_highways_maintenance)

**CIL FUNDS;** agree that CIL funds from the surrounding area should be used when providing wider facilities, eg schools.

**£150,000 FUND FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE EMRGENCY;** I have sent all my clerks the info on this

**HIGHWAYS INVESTMENT FUND;** also this asking for you to send in requests for areas where footpaths need cutting back . this is on top of the usual verge cutting schedule.

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**Instagram** - [https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli\\_group/](https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/)

**Website** - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)