

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT FOR WICKHAMBROOK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
31st May 2024

West Suffolk District Council News

The Council has appointed a new Locality Officer who also leads on Youth provision for the area. His name is Chris Swarbrick, and as he is new to the area, I have arranged to take him on a tour of my ward on Tuesday 11th June. I felt he needed to see first hand how small villages work – to understand the challenges in getting children to school or college – the geographical isolation of communities etc in the hope that he won't only think about provision for the towns of West Suffolk. As the new Locality Officer he replaces Jon Eaton who Clerks have come to know over the years as Jon holds the forms you need to spend my Locality Budget. Jon Eaton still works for the Council but in a slightly different role and doesn't cover my Ward any longer.

If you would like to meet with Chris when we do our drive around, please let me know.

My Locality Budget for 24/25 is £466 per village so I am limited in what I can offer this year. If you or a group in the parish is looking for funding do ask as Chris will be aware of other pots of money which may be more suitable for the purpose than the Locality Budget. I have recently allocated £200 to the forthcoming Carnival on 13th July

Herbicide Damage

I have been made aware of the terrible incident in which someone has deliberately sprayed a chemical which has caused damage to various parts of Wickhambrook, both private and communal. Mark Walsh who leads on this said the following:

I am very aware of the situation in Wickhambrook – This is not us! Our ban on the use of Glyphosate remains in place.

The Local Plan Update

Following the West Suffolk Local Plan Submission Draft (Regulation 19) consultation between January-March 2024, we have now reached the position where we are formally submitting the West Suffolk Local Plan to the Secretary of State in accordance with regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations today (Friday 24 May).

Thank you to those of you who took the time to comment on the plan, to visit our public engagement events and to attend Parish Council meetings when senior colleagues came out to talk about the process and take questions.

Planning

I have received the following planning notifications:

DC/24/0474/FUL – Land Adjacent to Aldersfield Place Farm

Sarah Pugh
WSDC Whepstead and Wickhambrook

Sarah Pugh
WSDC Wkepstead and Wickhambrook