

## **2017 Parish Councils AGM**

Another year gone but we seem to be in the same place as before.

May 2016 Tim Passmore successfully stood for another term as Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner. The other big election on the horizon being the EU referendum and of course we are now in the throes of Suffolk County Council elections to be quickly followed by a General Election. No doubt if we all live long enough we will know the results of these two elections

I was celebrating a minor success in managing to change Suffolk County Councils pattern of weedkiller spraying from starting in the North of the County and working down to actually start in our area. In previous years weeds had died of old age rather than a good dose of Glyphosate. Hopefully we will be first on the list again this year

June 2016 we were told that our rail line has the biggest number of cancelled trains of any service in the country, no surprise there for anyone who dares to venture out of our area by train

Roadworks were high on the Agenda as always and our local Sausage Shop had suffered huge loss of business due to the ongoing saga of Utility companies breaking an underground drain. Those of us who know nothing about the intricacies of road repairs suggested a broken underground pipe. The merry men from Highways pumped the water away a couple of times and then reluctantly investigated the problem and found much to their amazement a broken underground pipe!

The 100 year anniversary of the Battle of the Somme gave us all cause to ponder on the dreadful sacrifice of so many brave young men.

July 2016 and Devolution was the flavour of the period, all Suffolk District, Borough and County Council plus those of Cambridgeshire, Essex and Norfolk were supposed to be frantically working towards Devolution. Words like false dawn and waste of money spring to mind, getting Suffolk Councils to agree on anything or work together on anything is an achievement, bring in the other counties and you are doomed.

Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council announced their plans to merge, no surprises there of course.

The Fire Station was in the planning process of being made into a Joint Fire and Police Station, (building work now almost finished) there was a rumour of a plan to merge the Suffolk Fire Service with the Police, I believe talks are ongoing as they say.

August 2016 Highways still in the dog house over the state of our roads and of particular local concern was the state of Innocence Lane, some very poor temporary repairs had been carried out. The repairs were to such a standard that after a few days the material had all spun out. Happily there is a new man in charge of Highways and he is sorting out years of poor performance.

Housing development was still high on the agenda, the District Council wish to build everywhere possible and County Council officers appear powerless to insist on any road improvements. Once all the houses get built I suspect we will all suffer from the "G" word as in Gridlock

September 2016 The issue of Devolution was still uppermost in some council leaders minds, leading to much amused discussion at the County Council about our leaders wish to be the elected mayor. I asked if our leader had ordered his Ermin Robes and St Mary resident Bob Versey, asked if he could put in for the chauffeur job complete with peaked cap. Councillor Noble lost out on the Mayor's job and Bob did not even get to interview stage for the job of chauffeur, we had a few jokes about it all.

Work on the new clubhouse for Felixstowe and Walton football club was started. (The building is almost complete at the time of writing.)

October 2016 The villages ongoing problems with possible development sites and lack of a clear plan on infrastructure improvements still causing massive concerns.

The Felixstowe Library had the best ever year for the school children's Reading Challenge

November 2016 The month of Remembrance for those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Cycling on the Felixstowe prom became a right after years of misunderstanding about the legality of doing so. Suffolk County Council Highways contract was yet again under scrutiny for poor performance. Councillors and residents hopes of seeing a "Wind of Change" sweeping through Highways had to be content with a gentle breeze of change. Sadly the Public sector are not known for speedy action when it comes to change, the good news is that real progress is at last being made.

December 2016 The season of Goodwill and queues at the Carr Road, Household Recycling centre (Dump) SCC Leader Councillor Noble paid us a visit in Felixstowe and met residents including Councillor Garrett.

January 2017 The public sector returns to work after their Christmas and New Year break, councillors try to find out why jobs promised for 2016 are still outstanding at the Start of 2017. One such job being the very small footpath improvement at the entrance to Trimley Station, persuading Network Rail and Highways to actually agree on a programme of works appears to be a mammoth task

February 2017 Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service are looking to recruit On Call Firefighters, (Retained fire Fighters in old money) Residents in The Josslyns and Thurmans Lane continue to suffer at the hands of Developers. Undertakings given regarding delivery times, vehicle

queueing and mud on the road all seem to be ignored. The planning Authority (SCDC) seem less than keen to sort the problem out.

March 2017 The Felixstowe Combined Police and Fire Station has it's topping out ceremony, Suffolk County Council company Concertus have designed and commissioned this work which is going well, on time and on budget. Highways as ever in the spotlight of complaints, speed tables have been installed in Wadgate Road whilst there is an enormous pothole in Mill Lane. The fact that the two jobs are from different budgets cuts little ice with residents who play dodgems to avoid the pothole

April 2017 A time for quiet reflection as I enter the last month of my 12years representing the Trimley Villages as the elected member of Suffolk County Council. Other people will quite rightly judge if I have done any good, all I know is that it has been a roller coaster of emotions, plenty of frustrations and some really good bits. I have been humbled by the kind comments that have come my way since I announced that I would not be seeking re-election next month.