

## County Councillor Report



### Parish Councils, December 2024

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**Buses Bids Successful for Routes 70 and 73/ 73A** – The Save Our Buses Task Force Group along with SCC and Simonds Buses is delighted to learn that the applications for Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Funding for services 73 and 73A have been successful! The routes involved serve 15 villages between South Norfolk and Bury St Edmunds. A revised timetable reflecting community input will come into effect in 2025, after allowing for notice to the Traffic Commissioner. In the meantime the existing timetable will continue. The Task Force will continue to work closely with the bus company and SCC to achieve the longer-term goal of a financially viable bus service.

**New Solar and Battery Electric Storage Schemes (BESS)** – Multiple new solar schemes are anticipated in the North Suffolk and South Norfolk area particularly around Long Stratton and Yaxley, these appear linked with the proposed Norwich to Tilbury pylon scheme. Cllr Richard Rout (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure) is tracking activity via the Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) Register. One project for a 1000MW solar array to connect to the Yaxley 400kV substation proposed by NP SPV 40 Ltd AKA Yaxley Energy [YAXLEY ENERGY LIMITED overview - Find and update company information - GOV.UK](#). This is part of the National Power Yaxley Green Energy Park and may involve 13,000 acres in the Yaxley/ Eye area.

**Devolution** – The new Government has indicated that it wishes to enter into discussion with Suffolk (and Norfolk) County Councils about devolution but under different criteria to those of the previous government. The minister has expressed desire for devolution to be accompanied by local government reorganisation but nothing has been agreed and discussions are ongoing. A Devolution White Paper is expected before the New Year.

**County Council Post-16 Travel Consultation** - the annual public consultation on Post-16 Travel Policy for the 2025/2026 school year closes on Monday 16 December 2024. Refer to [Consultation on the post-16 travel policy for the 2025/2026 school year - Suffolk County Council](#)  
Complete the [online survey](#) or email comments to [post-16travelconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:post-16travelconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk).

**Budget Consultation – Final Call** - Suffolk County Council is seeking feedback from residents, businesses and community organisations on council services, increasing Council Tax, and areas they would like to see prioritised in the council's budget-setting process. The consultation closes 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024. To participate, visit [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2025\\_26\\_budget](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2025_26_budget)  
The results will be included in a final report when the budget is set in February 2025.

**Highways Issues** – please do report any highways or flood issues to the reporting web site in order to log the problem and enable a response, if a response is not satisfactory please contact me about it : <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: [Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk)  
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